THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

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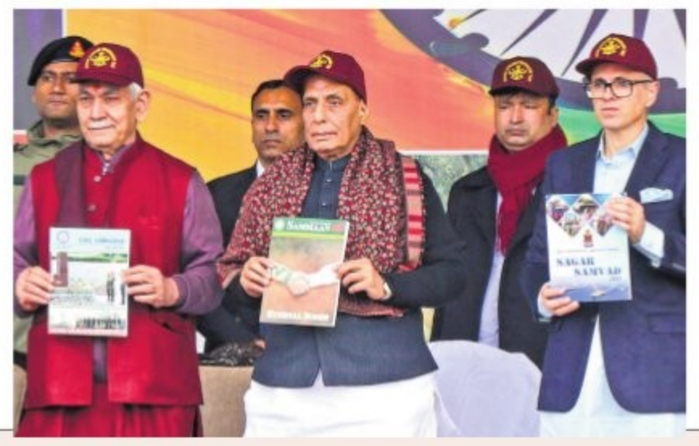

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J&K INCOMPLETE WITHOUT PoK, SAYS DEFENCE MINISTER IN AKHNOOR

Rajnath Singh on Tuesday described PoK as India's 'crown jewel' and said that Pakistan is using the 'foreign territory' 'for terrorism'

END TERROR OR FACE CONSEQUENCES, PAK TOLD

Rajnath Singh warned Pakistan to end terrorism or face consequences. "J&K is incomplete without PoK. People there are deprived of a dignified life. Pakistan makes efforts to mislead and provoke them against India in the name of religion. PoK's land is being used for terrorism," he said, adding that Pakistan will have to put an end to its nefarious designs

BATTLE OF AKHNOOR HOLDS SIGNIFICANCE

- The Battle of Akhnoor is significant as the Army successfully thwarted Pak's Operation Grand Slam and advanced towards Lahore
- 'History stands as a testament that Pakistan has lost every war against India — be it the tribal invasion of 1948, 1965, 1971, or 1999 Kargil. In each case, Pakistan has faced humiliation and defeat' **P9**

42,241

SQ KM IS THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

House panel to summon Meta over Zuckerberg election claims

Will seek an apology from the social media giant for 'factually incorrect' statements

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

CHAIRMAN of Parliament's Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology Nishikant Dubey announced on Tuesday that the panel would summon Meta chairman Mark Zuckerberg over his "factually incorrect" statements about the outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha poll. The panel will seek an apology from the social media giant for "tarnishing" India's image.

On Monday, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had lashed out at Zuckerberg for his remarks. Zuckerberg founded Meta, which owns Facebook.

"My committee will summon Meta for this incorrect information. Incorrect information about any democratic country tarnishes its image. This organisation will have to apologise to Parliament and the people here for this mistake," Dubey wrote on 'X'.

On Monday, Vaishnaw reacted strongly on 'X', tagging Meta and saying, "It is disappointing to see misinformation from Mr. Zuckerberg himself. Let's uphold facts and credibility."

Vaishnaw said: "From free food for 800 million, 2.2 billion free vaccines, and aid to nations worldwide during COVID, to leading India as the fastest-growing major economy, PM Modi's decisive 3rd-term victory is a testament to good governance and public trust."

Vaishnaw said that Zuckerberg's "factually incorrect" remarks failed to acknowledge India's achievements and the strong mandate secured by the government.

The remarks are part of the Meta founder's comments in a podcast with Joe Rogan. Zuckerberg said that 2024 was a big election year globally, and in many countries, including India, incumbents lost the polls.

"There is some sort of global phenomenon — whether it was inflation due to the economic policies to deal with Covid or just how the governments handled Covid — which seems to have had a broad effect not just in the US, but globally, leading to a decrease in trust in incumbents and perhaps in democratic institutions overall," he stated in the podcast.

In the 2024 elections, while the BJP fell short of a majority on its own, its alliance secured enough seats to form the government, reinstating Modi as PM for a third straight term.

TARNISHING INDIA'S IMAGE, SAYS DUBEY

Parliament's Standing Committee on Communications and IT chairman Nishikant Dubey said, "This organisation (Meta) will have to apologise to Parliament and the people here for this mistake."

META FOUNDER'S PODCAST REMARKS

In a podcast with Joe Rogan, Meta founder Mark Zukherberg said that 2024 was a big election year globally, and in several countries, including India, incumbents lost the polls.

Make India climate-smart, predict quakes better: PM

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi called on the scientists on Tuesday to focus on innovating early-warning systems for earthquakes and launched initiatives to make India "climate-smart".

Emphasising the importance of research, he said, "There is a need to develop warning systems for earthquakes and scientists and researchers should work in this direction."

Commemorating the 150th year of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Modi described its journey as a significant chapter in India's modern science and technology.

Modi also launched 'Mission Mausam', the initiative to boost weather monitoring using state-of-the-art technologies, including advanced radars, satellites, and high-performance computing systems.

He underscored the necessity of making India more "weather-resilient" and "climate-smart". The objective is to improve "the understanding of weather and climate processes and provide air quality data that will help strategise weather management and intervention in the long run".

Commending the IMD's efforts in delivering weather-related services, especially to vulnerable communities, the PM said, "A decade ago, only 10% of the farmers could access weather-related services, but today, this number has risen to over 50%. With the support of IMD, fishermen receive timely info on weather-related aspects."

Highlighting India's regional leadership in meteorological services and disaster management, he expressed satisfaction over "our flash-flood guidance system providing critical info to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka".

He elaborated on India's initiative, "Early Warning to All", which currently covers more than 90% of the population, and mentioned the 'Meghdoot mobile app', which provides weather updates in local languages.

PM Modi unveils Vision-2047 document to commemorate the 150th year of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) | PTI

VISION '47

IMD AIMS TO ACHIEVE 100% DETECTION OF ALL TYPES OF SEVERE WEATHER IN VILLAGES

The goal is to ensure zero deaths from severe weather events by enabling disaster managers, stakeholders and people to take early action based on warnings

AKHADAS GET RIGHT OF WAY TO SANGAM

PARAMITA GHOSH @ Prayagraj

THE day of the first Shahi Snan of Maha Kumbh, 2025, was, like always, primarily the day of the akhadas.

Shahi Snans are the red-letter days on the Kumbh timetable, and for the devout, who have come from far and wide to take a dip in the Sangam on the occasion of the first Shahi Snan of Makar Sankranti, there is a slight interruption in programme — when the Naga sadhus, their lithe bodies resplendent with ash and health, break into a run for the river.

For most, this is the marquee event of the mela, as sadhus wielding swords, maces, and tridents, blissed out on life, wave to the crowds, creating a few moments of intense connection as they move towards the Sangam. It is believed that the dip taken after the babas have bathed will yield great spiritual benefits.

The gesture of making way for others is part of the Kumbh tradition. "It all began in 1801 when fights broke out between the different sects and denominations, or the akhadas. On being petitioned to broker a peace, the Peshwa intervened and decreed the sequential order of the akhadas at the Shahi Snans," says Herambh Chaturvedi, a retired professor of Allahabad University. Ever since, that order — which gives the sects of Naga sanyasis the first right of way to the Sangam — has been enforced by the Akhada Parishad and followed by the different sects of ascetics and renunciants.

Tuesday's Shahi Snan passed without incident except for a brief period of chaos when devotees pushed through the security cordon and entered the area reserved for the sadhus.

Bathers started crowding the banks of the river by 4 am and the wave of excitement rippled through them at the first sighting of the sadhus. It seemed a carnival of spirits.

Sadhus began bathing at 5.15 am. Sri Panchayati Akhada Maha Nirvani and Sri Sambhu Panchawati Atal Akhada were among the early entrants.

Conch shells were blown, and dhol (drums) and tasha, nagare (kettle drums) were beaten, even as chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', 'Jai Ganga Maiyya ki Jai' and 'Har Har Gauri Shankar' rent the air.

MORE COVERAGE: P10

At least 1.38 crore people took holy dip on Makar Sankranti on Tuesday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

EAM: Spain will open a consulate in Bengaluru

Madrid: Spain will soon open a consulate in Bengaluru, EAM S Jaishankar said, calling it a "good sign" for deepening relations between both countries. Jaishankar, who is on a two-day visit to Spain, made these remarks on Monday, speaking to the Indian community here.

Outsourced TTD staffer steals temple gold, held

Tirupati: A 40-year-old outsourced employee of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) was arrested from Lord Venkateswara Swamy's temple for allegedly stealing over half a kg of gold received from devotees as offerings to the deity, police said on Tuesday. **P7**

12 labs gutted in fire at bio research centre

Bengaluru: As many as 12 research laboratories were reportedly destroyed in an early morning accidental fire on Tuesday, at the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC) -- located in Electronics City Phase 1 here. No casualties have been reported. **P5**

No evidence, HC quashes case against Ragini, Ranka in 2020 drugs case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Tuesday quashed criminal proceedings against accused actress Ragini Dwivedi and Prashant Ranka on the ground that police have not produced any material evidence to prove that they organised parties or sold drugs, except voluntary statements of the co-accused and chargesheet witnesses.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the order recently, while allowing the petitions filed by Ragini Dwivedi, accused No.2, and Prashant Ranka, accused No.4, questioning the legality of the proceedings.

The court said that continuing criminal proceedings against them would be an abuse of the legal process of law as there is no material produced by CCB to prove the charges against them. However, the court said the order would not come in the way of prosecuting the petitioners in accordance with the law, in view of the observations made in another writ petition involving the same issue.

The chargesheet was filed against them under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and IPC. The CCB, in its complaint, stated that they filed a suo motu complaint with Cottonpet police station. It was alleged in the complaint that they have information regarding the consumption of narcotics at parties organised at various locations frequented by celebrities, DJs, software engineers and others. **P5**

AFTER DRUBBING, DOs & DON'Ts

BCCI is possibly launching a pushback against its players after the embarrassing loss in Australia. After a review meeting in Mumbai to assess the team's performance, the cricketing bosses appear convinced that a dose of discipline is what the players require.

THE CURBS

- Wives/family can't stay more than a fortnight in a 45-day long tour
- Anything less than that, they stay only for a week
- All players to travel in team bus; no separate travel
- Players will bear luggage charges in excess of a 150kg limit
- Personal manager of head coach cannot stay in same hotel as players or travel in the team bus or enter the VIP box

Min Laxmi Hebbalkar injured in car accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

WOMEN and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar was seriously injured and her brother MLC Channaraj Hattiholi suffered an injury in the head in a road accident that took place at Ambadgatti village near Kittur at 5 am on Tuesday, when she was on her way back to Belagavi from Bengaluru in her official Toyota Innova car.

The driver lost control over the car while trying to avoid hitting a dog that was crossing the road and rammed into a road-side tree. According to sources, the car skidded off the National Highway onto the service road where it hit the tree at full speed and came to a stop abruptly. The car was completely damaged in the accident. Hebbalkar and Channaraj were sitting in the backseat, while her gunman was in the passenger's seat. Both the gunman and driver sustained minor injuries.

Hebbalkar and Channaraj were rushed to Vijaya Hospital in Belagavi. Orthopaedic surgeon Dr Ravi Patil, attending to Hebbalkar, said the minister has sustained compression fractures on L1 and L4 in the back and C-4, C-5 in the neck due to the impact of the accident. The minister needs at least a month's rest to recover from the injuries, he said, adding that she was responding well to the treatment. She will be discharged after a few days of observation, he added.

Channaraj sustained injuries in the head and some swelling in the brain. As his injuries were minor, he was discharged after treatment, Dr Patil said.

Belagavi SP Bhimashankar Guled said the minister had escort vehicles in the front and back of her official car when the accident occurred. When the car driver lost control, a truck was moving in between the minister's car and the front escort vehicle. **P4**

Minister Laxmi Hebbalkart's official car, which hit a tree near Kittur on Tuesday

Man behind India's cryogenic engine takes the helm at ISRO

Outgoing ISRO Chairman Dr S Somanath (right) greets new Chairman Dr V Narayanan in Bengaluru on Tuesday | x

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DR V Narayanan, Distinguished Scientist (Apex Grade), took charge as the new Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, Space Commission, late on Monday.

ISRO's social media handle shared the details of Dr Narayanan taking over from S Somanath in the early hours of Tuesday. The change at the helm of India's premier space agency happened in Thiruvananthapuram, and the new chief is yet to take charge at the Bengaluru office. "He is scheduled to visit the Bengaluru office on Wednesday, soon after which he will be heading to Delhi for a series of meetings," ISRO officials said.

Narayanan is known as the rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, who joined ISRO in 1984, and carries 40 years of work experience in the research organisation. Since January 2018, he was the director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) headquartered in Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram, with a unit in Bengaluru.

As LPSC Director, he played a crucial role in the development of liquid, semi-cryogenic and cryogenic propulsion stages for launch vehicles, chemical and electric propulsion systems for satellites, control systems for launch vehicles and transducer development for propulsion system health monitoring. **P7**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Wednesday: 15.01.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttarayanam
Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Pausha • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Dwitheeya 3.31 am
Nakshatra: Pushya 10.56 am • Moon in Simha Rashi • Rahukaala: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm
Gulikakala: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm • Yamaganda: 07:30 am to 09:00 am

WEATHER
MIN 15°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Breaks of sun late

Sunrise 06.45 am
Sunset 06.12 pm
Moonrise 07.38 pm
Moonset 07.53 am

Geological study in B'luru must before more construction

We hit rock surface at shallow depths: Expert

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WITH construction activities – commercial, residential and civil – increasing across the state, more so in and around Bengaluru, geologists and experts suggest that a detailed geological study be undertaken for the city before any further expansion.

Geologists point out that the soil in Bengaluru, Mysuru and surrounding areas is silty and red, and the region is made up of metamorphic granite rock called Peninsular Gneiss. "The soil is not thick and we hit the rock surface at shallow depths. Any construction on these structures is strong but that does not mean you go for unplanned construction everywhere," said a geological expert from IISc.

To get through rocks and soil, blasting, mining and deep drilling is undertaken to lay the foundation. This has an impact on the rocks, not just in the surrounding location, but even in faraway places. "There is a need to understand the impact of fractures and stress on the soil and rocks. So far, no geological studies have been undertaken to ascertain the details of rocks and soil, where construction can be undertaken and where a limit should be set. We have the expertise to complete the study in three months. It is time to link academic institutions with planning agencies. Basic scientific understanding is lacking," the expert added.

Citing the example of ongoing Namma Metro works, officials in Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited said the delay is not just because of labour shortage, coordination issues with other stakeholders, lack of underground maps of public utilities like drinking water and sewage lines or garbage pits, but also hard rock surfaces. There are many instances where tunnelling gets delayed as blades have to be changed. Prior information on the rock morphology will help, they added.

An IISc consultant with the state government said, "Government agencies look at private firms for geological and hydrological reports. These are usually based on patch test analysis and the reports are not accurate. Due to natural soil and rock conditions, structures stand strong, but the same cannot continue in future. What is happening underground needs to be studied before undertaking future projects."

A NEW BEGINNING

Bedecked bulls jump across a blazing wall of fire at Kanakanapalya near Ashoka Pillar. Bulls are made to jump through fire to exorcise evil during Makar Sankranti; A girl makes sweet pongal, along with others on the streets of Sudhama Nagar in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Terracotta pots are used to celebrate the agricultural and cultural aspects of the festival | NAGARAJA GADEKAL, SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

BMTC pushes UPI, aims at ₹1 cr transactions daily

BMTC APP UNAVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 15-30

Bengaluru: Namma BMTC Mobile App services will be temporarily unavailable from January 15 till January 30. Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) in a press release on Tuesday said that the downtime is necessitated by a migration activity to the Karnataka State Data Centre (KSDC). Live Bus Tracking, Journey Planner, Fare Calculator, Timetable Information and Route Tracking services will not be available. BMTC regrets any inconvenience caused during this period, the release added

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

TO address complaints from passengers about Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) conductors discouraging UPI payments and insisting on cash, the bus corporation has begun sensitising its conductors to accept UPI payments too. In many buses, especially those plying on the airport route and the tech corridors of the city, static UPI QR codes are pasted on the bus panels. However, passengers reported that conductors refused to allow payments through this method.

Purushotham Shiva, a plumber, who commutes regularly on BMTC buses for work said, "In some buses, conductors do not accept UPI payments for reasons best known to them. We cannot carry exact change every time we board, which is why UPI-based payments are essential. Action should be initiated against conductors if they refuse UPI payments."

BMTC Chief Traffic Manager GT Prabhakar Reddy, confirmed the sensitisation efforts to TNIE: "Except for around 10% of our buses, all buses have static QR codes on bus panels. Passengers can scan the code, enter the amount and once the payment is successful, a ticket will be issued," Reddy said.

In addition to static QR codes, handheld electronic ticket vending machines can generate dynamic QR codes. "In this method, the conductor will key in the boarding and destination points, and the system calculates the fare. A dynamic QR code is generated for passengers to scan and pay, after which a ticket is issued," he explained.

Since initiating these measures, UPI transactions have risen significantly. "Earlier, only Rs 20-25 lakh of the daily Rs 3 crore revenue came from UPI payments. Now, it has crossed Rs 60 lakh," Reddy said, adding that BMTC aims to hit Rs 1 crore in daily UPI transactions soon. He assured passengers that they are free to choose their preferred payment method and that conductors will no longer discourage UPI payments.

BBMP 1533 helpline for swift animal welfare action

ENS @Bengaluru

IN the light of the recent incident in Chamarajpet, where miscreants severely injured cows by cutting their udders, sparking widespread outrage, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) animal husbandry department has taken steps to resolve animal welfare issues promptly through the 1533 helpline, said Special Commissioner Suralkar Vikas Kishore.

Following the incident on Sunday, concerned citizens and activists have been reaching out via WhatsApp, Facebook groups, personal phone calls to assistant directors, and emails to raise queries and report issues related to animal welfare. They are urging the municipality to take swift action. "The helpline now features more detailed categories and has expanded its scope of service. Apart from common complaints like animal birth control, anti-rabies vaccination requests and dog bite management, we are now offering assistance with animal feeding, harassment and cruelty, controlling animal breeding and helping with licensing matters," said Kishore.

Citizens can reach out to the Palike by calling the 1533 helpline, submitting requests through the official app, or logging into the Bangalore One City One mobile app. Once the request is logged, veterinary inspectors and anti-cruelty officers are sent to the location to address the issue. Each request is assigned a response time. To improve citizen experience, the department encouraged the public to fully utilise the helpline for more efficient and timely assistance, he added.

Work near KR Circle leaves hawkers in distress

ELAKKIYA A & RAMPELLI SINDHU @Bengaluru

THE ongoing sewage pipeline work by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on Dr BR Ambedkar Road, near KR Circle, is causing severe problems for pedestrians, motorists and local businesses. With construction in full swing, pedestrians are now forced to walk on the road, risking their lives.

The stretch between KR Circle and Mysore Bank Circle houses educational institutions, city civil and sessions court and other government offices, where thousands of students, advocates and public flock every day. The narrow road, with soil and concrete pipes dumped along the roadside, clouds of dust, and worsening traffic congestion forcing vehicles on to one side, poses a serious risk to both pedestrians and drivers on the stretch.

Amid the chaos, local hawkers are bearing the brunt of the disruption. A hawker, speaking to TNIE, expressed frustration over the loss of business due to the extended construction. "The work is taking too long, and affecting our livelihood. Customers can't reach us safely because of the traffic, and many are avoiding the area altogether," he said.

BWSSB East Zone executive engineer Sneha acknowledged the inconvenience but explained that sewage pipeline work is being accelerated due to BBMP's white topping work. "Once BWSSB completes its work, white topping work will follow, and will be completed as soon as possible, thus easing movement on the road for motorists," the BWSSB official said.

Kadusonnapanahalli Lake gets facelift

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

TO mitigate flooding in upstream catchment areas and rejuvenate Kadusonnapanahalli Lake, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has cleared encroachment and debris under its 'Shubra Bengaluru' initiative, utilising a Rs 4.02 crore grant.

The lake spanning 14 acres and 35 guntas in Kadusonnapanahalli village, is part of the Hebbal-Nagawara lake network connected to the South Pennar River. Handed over to BBMP by Bengaluru Zilla Panchayat to BBMP in 2020, the lake was previously filled with debris, leading to flooding in upstream areas. "These issues have been addressed and the lake is back to life," said an official.

Under the 2021-22 grant, BBMP undertook key restoration measures including desilting the lake bed to increase storage capacity, diverting sewage inflows and constructing inlets, silt traps and RCC box culverts to prevent flooding. Additional works like fencing, pathway improvements, erection of entrance gates and display boards were also completed, said Younus Parvez, managing director of VIMOS Technocrats Pvt Ltd, which executed the works.

EXPRESS READ

TNIE Senior Special Correspondent Yathiraju receives the Press Club Annual Award 2024-25 from CM Siddaramaiah and Energy Minister KJ George in Bengaluru on Sunday

PES University hosts CXO Talk

Bengaluru: Faculty of Management Studies at PES University hosted CXO Talk 2025, featuring Gregory Profeta, a Global business leader and partners with PwC (PriceWaterhouseCoopers) US on January 10. He spoke about Leadership in Times of Change with subtopics including Purpose-Led, Values-Driven Leadership, Tech for Change, Tech for Good, Leading with Heart, and Leading with Courage. Gregory Profeta highlighted PwC's focus on customer value through ethics, quality, integrity, and client understanding. He outlined PwC's core pillars—audit, tax, and advisory—emphasising trust in capital markets, the strategic role of tax, and advisory solutions for business challenges.

Sri M Visvesvaraya Co-Operative Bank Ltd elected board of directors of the Bank for the next five years during its elections on January 12. Anoop Haranahalli, Ganesh L, Gopinath Rao HN, Vedavyas BS, Kiran Nadig, Lakshminarayana S, Ravishankar BS, Srinivasa Rao SS, Ravi Kumar S, Gopinath HR, Muralidharan VA, Raghu S, Venkaesh KN, Nalini Shivashankar and Mamatha AS are the elected board of directors.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

15TH January: I was recently vising some of our most famous ancient temples, exploring the alignments with the Sun and planets. Many are built so they exactly face south. The belief is that when the Sun is at the correct position, its light and heat reach in and touch the central images, bringing new life to the world.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Venus makes subtle angles to a series of planets, encouraging you to seek inspiration and sympathy from friends and colleagues. Those of you at work will discover that it's who you know that counts, not what you do. However, given that intense passions could erupt at any moment, you should never slip into complacency.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You can take advantage of growing plane-tary alignments with secre-tive sectors of your chart to increase your privacy and spend a little more time by yourself. Over the next few weeks, peace and quiet will be a commodity in increasing demand, and there's no reason why you should reveal all to people with whom you're uncomfortable.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
That sensitive sign, Pisces, has been having its say in your life and your instincts have been telling you to bide your time over career and professional issues. However, you may now put delicate considerations to one side and press ahead with your usual vigour.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
That sensitive sign, Pisces, has been having its say in your life and your instincts have been telling you to bide your time over career and professional issues. However, you may now put delicate considerations to one side and press ahead with your usual vigour.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It looks like a hard-working day. There's a general air of excitement, but today is a good time to get your shoulder to the wheel and press ahead with routine but highly necessary chores. My only concern is that you might push yourself too hard.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Almost any Virgo will tell you that the working week is not designed for fun, but for honest toil. However, the planets are in a slightly chaotic mood, and with the Moon quite sensitive, today, you must give absolute priority to pleasure, romance and cultural excursions.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Jupiter, the ruler of opportunity and enthusiasm is the planet of the moment. If professional ambitions are at the top of the agenda the outcome can only be good. The one problem is your tendency to inadvertently offend those whose support you. Put yourself at their disposal and they won't forget it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Although financial indications are relatively benign, you need to do your sums and ensure that you are not making a rod to beat yourself with. Don't take on commitments you won't be able to keep, especially if you are under duress from partners to make a quick agreement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Something that brought you up short recently should not be allowed to make you feel undermined or demoralised. You are too big a person and the future is too bright, to allow you to carry resentment around for much longer. If you feel that somebody else has been unfair, then you can't really do anything about it until you have found exactly the right approach.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The Sun and Mercury are sparkling away in your solar chart, bringing fresh light to areas of your life that have long been buried deep beneath a mountain of emotional verbiage. Now's the time to break free, perhaps while someone who has been blocking your path is looking the other way!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Be prepared to take even enforced changes at home in your stride. The Moon is currently making it difficult to get one or two personal issues straight, but within a few days all will be made crystal clear and you might even find out what the alternatives are.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You do tend to feel sorry for yourself, and recent planetary activity has inclined you to be feeling neglected and hard done by. Right now, you may be considering spending your way to happiness and why not? After all, you have earned the right to a little luxury, just as long as you're careful.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

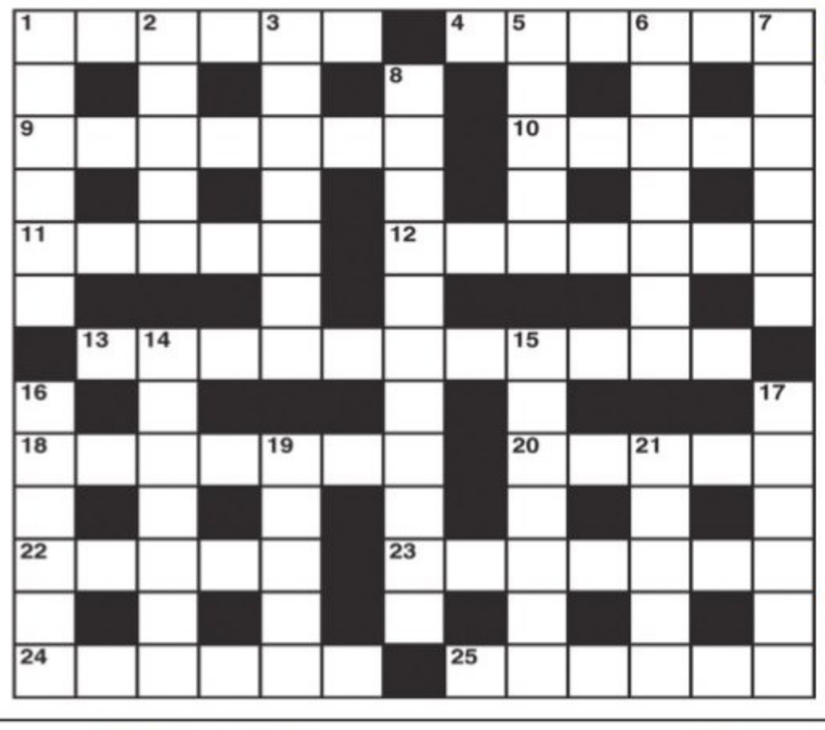
5	9			6	7		1	3
	8				1	7	9	4
		7						
				4			6	8
6	1						2	5
4	5			3				
						6		
9	6	2	3				5	
8	3		6	7			4	1

1	3	7	6	5	4	9	2	8
2	5	9	1	8	7	6	3	4
6	8	4	9	3	2	1	7	5
7	1	3	5	9	6	8	4	2
5	2	6	4	1	8	3	9	7
9	4	8	2	7	3	5	6	1
3	7	5	8	2	9	4	1	6
8	6	2	3	4	1	7	5	9
4	9	1	7	6	5	2	8	3

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Game and butter put in cob perhaps (6)
4 It makes a very fine trap (6)
9 Polish girl with German complaint (7)
10 Doctor gets behind the plan (5)
11 Ring an agent back at Covent Garden? (5)
12 It's said I watched something unpleasant (7)
13 Adam and I grammatically speaking (5,6)
18 Gives the fellow a different seat (7)
20 Disordered defeat (5)
22 A fuss about showing reverence (5)
23 Nothing to fasten? That's what you think! (7)
24 Discontinuation of issued order (6)
25 Ineffectively it's reported every seven days (6)

DOWN
1 Rewarding variety of vegetable (6)
2 Blame fracture for mount's pace (5)
3 Dance and unusually sad songs (7)
5 The chaplain's home again (5)
6 Derisive roar in Irish assembly ruined top game (7)
7 He's a right beast! (6)
8 Weapon used to liquidate people? (5,6)
14 Genius? Nothing! Just mixed-up and fiery (7)
15 Itinerary takes in the usual course (7)
16 He takes part in a spirited war dance (6)
17 Mean to overcharge youth leader (6)
19 The sound of tears and rows (5)
21 Jam or paste (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 In store, 5 Riffs, 8 Feels the pulse, 9 Ruler, 10 Respect, 11 Penned, 12 Cattle, 15 Rubbish, 17 Theft, 19 Short circuits, 20 Loser, 21 Shelley.

Down: 1 Infer, 2 Spelling books, 3 Observe, 4 Exhort, 5 Ropes, 6 Filled the bill, 7 Sceptre, 11 Perusal, 13 Article, 14 Chains, 16 Inter, 18 Testy.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

LIUBD

CEHRE

ATLTET

KNISYN

Today's Guest JUMBLER is
Susan Camilleri Konar
artist for SIX CHIX
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
11-20
IGNORING HIS PARROT, THE PIRATE PUT HIS PATCH OVER HIS MOUTH, SO HE COULD ____

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRUSH HABIT MODULE BUTTER
Answer: The mayor gave Slylock Fox an award for his honest efforts as a — SLEUTH FOR TRUTH

Punjab Government

Empowering the Elderly

Monthly Pension of ₹1500 under Old-age Penssion Scheme

Budget allocation of ₹5924.50 crore under financial assistance schemes for penssions for the elderly, widows, dependent women & children and Persons with Disability

₹4532.60 crore disbursed to 34.09 lakh beneficiaries as pension

"Our elders are our pride and our wealth. Providing them with a dignified life and empowering them economically is our duty. By ensuring monthly pensions, we are fulfilling this responsibility. I envision a Rangla Punjab where every citizen enjoys a life of happiness and fulfillment."

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Join Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's official WhatsApp channel

Scan Here

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

2220/13/299/2023/40774

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and others left for New Delhi on Tuesday to attend the inauguration of a new AICC building on Wednesday. They are also expected to have discussion with AICC general secretaries K C Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala on the political developments in the state

BILLS STUCK WITH GOVT, KEONICS VENDORS SEEK PM'S INTERVENTION

Urge Modi to end harassment; point fingers at minister Priyank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN the wake of the state contractors' association threatening to launch protests over the delay in releasing pending bills, vendors working with the Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (KEONICS), a state government undertaking, have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to release pending bills and end "harassment".

Keonics Empanelled Vendors' Welfare Association, in its letter to the PM, stated that around 450 to 500 vendors working with KEONICS are in dire straits due to delays in releasing the pending bills and changes in the eligibility criteria by the management. Eligibility criteria were changed to help some big companies, they alleged.

The association has also written to the President of India, Union IT/BT minister and the Karnataka governor.

The association held IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge, KEONICS Chairman Sharath Bache Gowda and senior officers with the corporation responsible for the harassment they face. It also held them responsible if any of the vendors took extreme measures.

Association president Vasanth K Bangera said bills worth around Rs 350-400 crore are pending and nearly 6,000 families that depend on the vendors are facing hardships. Vendors are being harassed as they had protested against an official who had demanded commission and bills are being held back in the name of investigating a few violations, they alleged.

BJP urges CM to take action

The opposition BJP urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take immediate measures to clear the pending bills. Taking to a social media platform, the BJP stated that the state government was "torturing" the contractors and now the KEONICS vendors' welfare association has written to the President seeking mercy killing. The letter mentions Minister Priyank Kharge and MLA Sharath Bache Gowda, the BJP stated.

Do your homework: Minister

Minister Kharge hit back at BJP leaders, asking them to do their homework thoroughly before making public statements. Payments to vendors, who have not been involved in any malpractice, will be processed based on the recommendations of the fact-finding committee, he said.

"Do you seriously expect our government to clear payments to vendors who were involved in irregularities during your tenure? Have you forgotten the accountant general's audit findings, which flagged over Rs 300 crore worth of misappropriations by KEONICS under your government?" the minister said.

The minister said some of the audit observations included payments made without conducting third-party inspections, payments made against fake bills before the supply of goods, claims for software that were never installed yet payments were made, fraudulent and excessive claims by vendors, including payments against fake delivery 'challans' and forged third-party inspection reports.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. The corruption and mismanagement under your administration ran deep and is being investigated. Why are you in such a hurry to go behind bars? Instead of questioning me, why not direct your questions to the then IT minister and chief minister from your own party?" Kharge stated.

> **Bills of Rs 350-400 crore are pending and nearly 6,000 families of vendors are facing hardships. Vendors are being harassed as we had protested against an official who had demanded commission**
>
> — Vasanth K Bangera, Keonics Empanelled Vendors' Welfare Association

'Countdown starts, clear bills or civic works stop'

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

VARIOUS development works, including the whitetopping of major roads, in Bengaluru are likely to come to a grinding halt as contractors have threatened to go on strike over pending bills of a whopping Rs 3,850 crore. The BBMP Contractors' Association along with the Karnataka Contractors' Association (KCA) has given a week's time, starting January 13, to the government to clear the dues.

KCA members said the pending bills for works across Karnataka are over Rs 32,000 crore. Speaking to TNIE, Nanda Kumar, president of the BBMP Contractors' Association said, "Apart from the works taken up for the BBMP, we also take up works in the city to which grants are provided by the state government. Now, the BBMP's pending bill amount has touched Rs 1,850 crore and the dues from the state government are around Rs 2,000 crore." He added that the dues are pertaining to the works taken up in 2021.

Kumar said after their protest in the past, partial payments were made in July 2023. "When they started to clear the dues for the works done in 2021, BBMP withheld 25 per cent of the total amount," he said. He claimed that the withheld amount is to the tune of Rs 1,350 crore, which includes the amount withheld for the works done with the state government grants as well.

A contractor said only when there was a protest, the BBMP and the government took up the issue seriously and cleared the pending dues. He added that it will be inevitable for them to go on a strike as they have borrowed huge loans for the works from banks and money lenders and they cannot stretch it any further.

ATTACK ON COWS

Such crimes result of Cong appeasement: BYV

LoP R Ashoka, MP PC Mohan and BJP state chief BY Vijayendra perform 'Gau Pooja' at the house of Karna, owner of the cows that were attacked, in Bengaluru on Tuesday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

SLAMMING the state government, BJP state president BY Vijayendra on Tuesday said it is the Congress dispensation's appeasement politics that has created a fertile ground for heinous crimes, like the slashing of the udders of three cows in Bengaluru.

Vijayendra, accompanied by Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, Bangalore Central MP PC Mohan and others, visited the house of Karna, owner of the cows, in Chamarajpet, and demanded strict action against the accused. Mohan also gifted two cows and a calf to Karna.

"This incident has shocked not just the people of Karnataka, but also the entire country. Such crimes have never happened in the state. We worship the cow as god; this incident is unfortunate," Vijayendra told reporters.

Stressing that the BJP stands with the owner of the cows, he said, "The appeasement politics of the Congress government is encouraging people to indulge in such crimes. The BJP is demanding justice for the poor family. People involved in the crime have to be punished."

Meanwhile, he also attacked the Congress government over the financial status of the state, saying ever since it came to power, Karnataka's finances have been in the doldrums. "The manner in which this government is functioning, it will become difficult to pay even the salaries of employees. The situation has become worse. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is an experienced finance minister, is unable to run the government. Contractors have not gotten their payment and more of them will take extreme steps," he said.

On Congress infighting, Vijayendra said many people within the party are waiting for Siddaramaiah's resignation. "More importantly, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar is desperately waiting for Siddaramaih's resignation. Day by day, in-fighting in Congress is coming out in the open and people are witnessing it. Everyone is eying the CM's post, with more than eight contenders jostling for it," he added.

No one will be spared, says Dr G

Bengaluru: A day after a man was arrested for allegedly slashing the udders of three cows in Chamarajpet, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Tuesday stressed that no one involved in the crime will be spared. "Investigation is on. If the accused names any others, they will be arrested too. The accused is from Bihar and he was drunk when he slashed the udders of the cows. The government will not spare anyone. We will take action in the case," he told reporters. Asked about the meeting held on Monday, Parameshwara said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has promised to give Rs 10 crore to each MLA for their constituencies. This includes MLAs from opposition parties too. Comprehensive development is important, he added. Parameshwara said he did not discuss the dinner meet with AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, and he will explain later. **ENS**

BJP workers try to throw cow dung at min's house

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

DEMANDING stringent action against miscreants who had slashed the udders of three cows in Bengaluru recently, BJP leaders and workers held a protest in front of Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh's residence at Sharadadevi Nagar on Tuesday.

The BJP workers, led by MLA TS Srivatsa, gathered near the minister's residence as part of 'Black Sankranti' to protest against the heinous incident and shouted slogans against minister Venkatesh. The workers, who had brought cow dung with them, tried to throw it at the residence of the minister. But the police prevented the protesters from throwing cow dung and detained them. The protesters were ferried to DAR Grounds where they were released.

BJP leaders and workers being detained by police in front of Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh's residence in Mysuru on Tuesday | UDAYASHANKAR S

BJP city president L Nagendra said the heinous crime against cows has hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus who consider cows as gods.

"It is a sadistic act which cannot be done by a single person. The police have arrested a person and are trying to close the case. We suspect that there is a gang that is deliberately trying to hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus. We demand that the government direct the police to trace the gang and arrest them," he said.

Stating that the Congress government is not showing any urgency to arrest the miscreants like the way they displayed in arresting BJP MLC C T Ravi, Nagendra said Congress leaders are busy fighting among themselves for the CM's seat and are involved in dinner politics.

"The Congress government is the most corrupt which is involved in MUDA, MCC and other scams. As Lokayukta comes under the government, there has been no action against Congress leaders involved in crimes. The law and order system in the state has completely collapsed," he said.

MLA Srivatsa said cows have been worshipped by Hindus for centuries.

CM'S POST

No confusion in Congress, Siddu doing good: Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

INDUSTRIES Minister MB Patil on Tuesday said there is no confusion in the Congress over the Chief Minister's post and Siddaramaiah is doing good work as the CM.

Speaking to the media after meeting the CM in Bengaluru, the minister said there is no confusion or problem with the leadership issue, the appointment of a new KPCC president, or the caste census report, as all those decisions will be taken by the party high command. The minister said AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala had made it clear during the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on Monday.

Patil said he met the CM to wish him on Sankranti, and they did not discuss any political issues. There are no differences between Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi over Belagavi district politics, and all of them together built the party office in the district, the minister said, responding to a question.

Patil said they have never opposed the caste census report and have only made it clear that injustice should not be done to any community. The minister said they are not aware of the details of the caste census report.

He will continue to work as the industries minister and is not aspiring for the Congress state chief's post, he said and added that in politics, "he is ambitious, but not overambitious".

Karnataka govt says UGC rules on VC appointment blow to federal structure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government has strongly opposed the provisions related to the appointment of vice-chancellors in the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulation-2025.

Demanding that the Union government withdraw the draft guidelines, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar has written to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, stating that the provisions related to VC appointments are a "blow to the federal structure" and undermine the legitimate role that state governments play in improving higher education.

UGC recently published the draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025, for public consultation. The draft is now kept for public consultation and one of the provisions proposes sweeping changes to the appointment of VCs.

"While detailed comments will be submitted in due course after consultation with experts, the Government of Karnataka would like to strongly oppose certain provisions related to the appointment of vice-chancellors, which strike at the root of the higher education system and powers of the state government," Sudhakar said in the letter dated January 13.

He pointed out that the draft guidelines provide no role for the state government in selecting the VC of a university.

Sudhakar said the provision aims to extinguish the rights of states in universities and higher education governance and added that this is not acceptable. He suggested that the UGC engage in a dialogue with state governments to assess the present status and issues faced by universities, besides discussing issues pertaining to students before proposing any radical changes to the existing guidelines.

Laxmi was returning after attending CLP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LAXMI Hebbalkar's son Mrinal said his mother left Bengaluru after attending the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting late on Monday night. He said the car driver lost control over the vehicle while trying to avoid hitting a dog which was crossing the road.

He said his mother has received injuries in the back and the doctors said she would recover soon. He said his uncle Channaraj received injuries in the head and ear, but his condition is stable. Several top leaders spoke to Hebbalkar and the doctors. Channaraj said his sister has survived a major accident, but is out of danger.

SHARP CRITICISM

Siddu reprimands DC in public, gets slammed

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@Hosapete

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has come under severe criticism from people and the BJP for reprimanding Vijayanagar Deputy Commissioner MS Divakar at a recent public event.

BJP leaders, jumping at the opportunity, slammed Siddaramaiah, saying the incident was humiliating not only to Divakar, but to the entire IAS community.

A video clip of the incident, recorded on Sunday, and which has gone viral on social media sites, the chief minister is seen getting angry over the DC sitting next to seers at a mass marriage programme in Hoovina Hadagali. Even while speaking on the microphone, Siddaramaiah instructs the DC to vacate the seat in the front row and to go to the back.

What irked people was Siddaramaiah addressing the DC without respect. The debate is now over the irony of politics riding roughshod over education and merit. A large number of netizens demanded that the chief minister apologise to the deputy commissioner. But others, especially Congress followers, are trying to defend the CM, saying the DC did not follow the protocol. But the BJP pointed out that it was a private function, and the names of delegates were written on the chairs they were expected to occupy. The CM addressing the senior officer in "singular" is not acceptable, it said.

A senior BJP leader said the incident clearly showed Siddaramaiah's arrogance. "We should respect everyone. It was an embarrassing moment for the DC, who is the top officer in the district. We demand that the CM apologise to the DC immediately," he added.

Panchamsalis launch another campaign for MBC tag

BANSY KALAPPA
@Bagalkote/Bengaluru

THE Panchamsali community has intensified its efforts to secure the more backward class (MBC) category tag, with the Kudala Sangama Panchamsali Peeta launching the Pratigya Kranti (oath revolution) campaign on Tuesday.

After nearly four years of struggle, the community is now committed to spreading their cause across approximately 12,000 villages where Panchamsalis live. The campaign kicked off with pontiff Jayamrutyunjaya Swami leading an oath-taking ceremony for over a hundred followers. Despite opposition from some leaders of other backward communities, who argue that protests alone cannot secure MBC status, the campaign vowed to press ahead.

Pontiff Jayamrutyunjaya Swami meets Panchamsali leaders at Kudalasangama in Bagalkote district on Tuesday

Speaking to *TNIE*, the pontiff emphasised his plans to visit the villages and consult with the local populace. The campaign is a culmination of a long-standing struggle that gained momentum after a violent police crackdown on Panchamsali protesters in Belagavi last December. Following this, the Panchamsali swami called on leaders from Panchamsalis, Deeksha Gowda and Malegowdas to reignite the cause and demand the official recognition of the community under the 2A MBC category. The swami urged members to carry the fight to villages throughout the state.

However, former backward classes commission chairman CS Dwarakanath pointed out that as technically Panchamasalis are agriculturists, they cannot be given reservation either legally or constitutionally under the 2A, which is meant for artisanal communities.

Community leaders will now march from village to village, urging people to take a solemn pledge -- Pratigya. This campaign aims to foster unity and determination to strengthen the community's fight for reservation.

It can be noted that the meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, originally scheduled for December, was delayed. Congress leaders BR Patil and Vijayanand Kashappanavar, who had worked to facilitate the discussion, confirmed that the meeting had been postponed by four weeks.

Meanwhile, the pontiff stated that another meeting of Panchamasali leaders will take place on February 12 at Kudalasangama, where further plans for the campaign will be outlined.

EXPRESS READ

Contractor suicide: CID raids houses of 4 accused

Kalaburagi: Sleuths of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) conducted searches at the residences of four of the accused in the Bidar contractor Sachin Panchala suicide case, in Kalaburagi on Tuesday. All the accused — former Kalaburagi corporator Raju Kapanur, a follower of RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge; Nandkumar Nagbhujange; Ramanagowda; and Gorakhnath — were arrested by the CID in Bidar a few days back. Four others, who are not from Kalaburagi, have also been arrested. A team of 40 CID officers, comprising two DySPs and two inspectors, raided Raju Kapanur house in Kapanur, Gorakhnath's and Ramanagowda's at Ghatage Layout and Nagbhujange's at Ganj locality to collect evidence. There is no information on whether the CID found any evidence. **ENS**

Two people were killed on the spot and three others were injured, after a truck rammed into a roadside eatery and overturned near Gulagale on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru NH-75 on Tuesday. The deceased have been identified as Veeresh (34) of Chitradurga and Sonu (28), cleaner of the truck

MISTAKEN FOR THIEF'S ACCOMPLICE, GUARD'S HAND CHOPPED OFF

Victim hears 'Thief' call outside office, goes to check when he's attacked

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A GROUP of people, who caught a thief, chopped off the left hand of a 24-year-old security guard, mistaking him to be an accomplice of the thief. The incident took place in Harohalli industrial area.

The victim, identified as Vinay S, a resident of Belikothanur in Kanakapura of Ramanagara taluk, has been admitted in a hospital. Unfortunately, the hand, which was severed at the wrist, could not be re-attached to the rest of the arm, and doctors have suggested that he opt for prosthetics.

"The incident occurred around 10.30-10.40 pm on Thursday outside the Pyrodynamics company's premises in the second phase of Harohalli industrial area. Vinay, who was in the office premises, heard somebody loudly calling out, 'Thief! Thief!' He came outside, assuming that there was a theft in the firm and found a group of men in a car beating the alleged thief, identified as Chetan, a resident of Magadi. Meanwhile, the group mistook Vinay to be an accomplice of Chetan, and turned their attention towards the former, chopping off his left hand with a machete. The injured guard ran inside the factory and called his brother Thejas Gowda for help. He also dialled '112' and informed the police about the incident," said an officer, based on the victim's statements.

Vinay was immediately rushed to a nearby private hospital, from where he was shifted in an ambulance to the Victoria Hospital. Thejas filed a complaint in this regard on Friday. "The thief, Chetan, has been arrested. Of the accused who attacked Vinay, one of them has been taken into custody, and the search for the remaining accused continues," the officer added.

The Harohalli police have registered a case of attempt to murder.

MEADOWED MILESTONE

Gardeners spread out a carpet of vivid flowers in the Glass House at Lalbagh, as the city's prized botanical garden prepares for its 217th Flower Show, as part of Republic Day, on Tuesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Man murders mother-in-law in Vadgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

A youth allegedly murdered his mother-in-law over an argument over who would take care of his wife at Rayat Galli in Vadgaon in Shahapur police station limits in Belagavi on Tuesday morning. The victim was identified as Renuka Padmuki (43), a resident of Kalyan Nagar, Belagavi.

The accused, Shubham Datta Birje (24) of Rayat Galli, Belagavi, had married seven months ago. Police personnel from Shahapur station arrested three people, prime accused Shubham Birje, his mother Sujata Birje and father Datta Birje in connection with the case. According to the preliminary investigation, S6hubham had married Renuka's daughter and his wife was not keeping well for the past three days.

Shubham Birje

Renuka Padmuki

Shubham did not take care of his wife and the mother-in-law had to step in to provide treatment.

Exchange of words

In connection with this, there was a heated exchange of words between both the families.

In a fit of rage, accused Shubham allegedly stabbed Renuka with a sharp knife, and she succumbed on the way to the hospital.

Shahapur police arrested the accused immediately after the incident and further investigation was taken up after a case was registered.

Labourer rapes, kills 6-year-old girl, thrashed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A SIX-year-old girl was raped and murdered by a 25-year-old construction worker in Ramamurthy Nagar police station limits on Monday night. Local residents nabbed the accused who was fleeing after committing the act, and thrashed him. Police also resorted to a mild lathicharge to disperse the crowd after they started demanding that the accused be handed over to them.

The accused, Abhishek Kumar, 25, from Bihar, has been booked under the POCSO Act and other sections of the BNS.

The victim's parents, who are from Nepal, were working at an under-construction building in Hoysala Nagar. On Monday evening, the victim was alone in the building while her parents had gone out. Abhishek lured her with chocolates and took her inside the same building, and sexually assaulted her. When she started screaming in pain, he reportedly covered her mouth tightly to stop her from shouting. The girl suffocated to death.

On returning, her parents started looking for her as they couldn't spot her. After finding her body, the parents raised an alarm and locals rushed to the spot. One of the locals had last seen the child with Abhishek and passed on the information. Locals fanned out and nabbed him, and when he tried to flee, they attacked him with wooden planks. Police, who rushed to the spot, resorted to a mild lathicharge to disperse the mob as the residents refused to hand him over to the police.

Police shifted the body for an autopsy. Investigations are on.

Tata IISc Medical School to come up on IISc campus

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Indian Institute of Science (IISc) on Tuesday signed an MoU with Tata Group to partner and set up Tata IISc Medical School, to help in healthcare education and research. The educational centre will come up on the IISc Bengaluru campus, for which the Tata Group has committed Rs 500 crore.

The school will be a centre of excellence aiming at catalysing a unique model of clinical research and medical education in India, by bringing basic science and engineering to bear on clinical science and practice. It will focus on a variety of specialities, including oncology, cardiology, neurology, nephrology, diabetes and metabolic disorders, infectious diseases, integrative medicine and public health, said a release here.

N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons, said healthcare is one of India's biggest challenges and also one of its greatest opportunities, given the scale at which technology is transforming everything, from diagnosis to care and community health.

"The institute will lay emphasis on cutting-edge research and global collaboration which will create a highly qualified cadre of physician-scientists trained in the latest approaches to modern medicine," he added.

The Tata IISc Medical School will offer integrated MD-PhD and other dual degree programmes to create a new cadre of physician-scientists and medical technologists. Students will be trained simultaneously in the medical school as well as in science and engineering labs at IISc. It will also collaborate with renowned medical schools from across the world to enable students to acquire global expertise, knowledge and practices.

EXPRESS READ

Karuneshwara Mutt seer faces FIR over remark

KALABURAGI: An FIR has been registered against the pontiff of Karuneshwara Mutt of Andola Shri Siddalinga Swamiji who is also Hon. President of Sri Rama Sene, at Bramhapur Police Station of Kalaburagi, on the basis of a complaint registered against him by a leader of Dalit Sanghatanegala Samanvaya Samiti AB Hosamani on Monday. Hosamani, who addressed a press conference on Tuesday, said Shri Siddalinga Swamiji has hurt the sentiments of Dalit community by making some objectionable remarks during a press conference held at Patrika Bhavan of Kalaburagi recently. He said he has lodged a complaint which attracts punishment under Atrocity Prevention Act against Siddalinga Swamiji at Bramhapur Police Station. The Dalit leaders said there are many seers in Karnataka, but they never tried to disturb communal harmony.

12 labs gutted in fire at govt-owned Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AS many as 12 research laboratories were reportedly destroyed in an early morning accidental fire on Tuesday, at the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC) -- located at the Helix Biotech Park, IBAB Campus, Electronics City Phase 1. No casualties have been reported in the incident.

The BBC comes under the Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services (KBITS), Department of IT, BT and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka. The 50,000-sq ft centre is located on a 10-acre campus.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge visited the spot to inspect the damage. Later, the Department of IT & BT, in a statement, said the mishap was due to improper management of flammable solvent in a lab. The preliminary estimation of loss sustained by startups ranged from Rs 80-110 crore, while the estimated loss to BBC properties was approximately Rs 42 crore.

"The fire erupted at Galore Tx startup room on the second floor (ESF07 lab) due to improper management of flammable solvent in their lab. All BBC startups were previously informed to not store and use any large volume of inflammable chemicals in their lab and a separate open storage area was provided for the same," the statement read.

The second floor of the facility, which was recently revamped to house more number of startups, was completely gutted, while extensive damage was also sustained to first and ground floors due to the interconnected HVAC lines, the department added.

"The fire severely damaged common infrastructure of BBC including the Bangalore Bio Bank, Cleanroom facility, Flowcytometry, HVAC units, AC units, among others. Several of the Incubated startups who had equipment of their own, also sustained serious damage to their consumables and IP products," the department stated.

Meanwhile, the fire department said, "A security guard, after noticing the fire, alerted the fire control room. In all, four fire-engines, including an Aerial Ladder Platform from a private firm, brought the fire under control by 8.30 am."

Chargesheet was filed against several accused

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LATER, the CCB recorded the voluntary statement of an accused. Based on this, a crime was registered against the petitioners on September 4, 2020, at Cottonpet police station. The chargesheet was filed against several accused, including Ragini and Ranka, who are accused No.2 and 4 respectively, on June 8, 2021.

The specific allegations against accused no.1 Shivaprakash, a realtor, is that his friend Ragini introduced him to businessmen and youngsters at parties where drugs were supplied. It was further alleged that Shivaprakash, Ragini and others consumed contraband substances, such as ecstasy pills, at parties. He is alleged to have instigated others to consume ecstasy pills too. The specific allegations against the petitioners were that they organised parties and facilitated the distribution of drugs at events organised on July 5, 8 and 17, 2020.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
KORAMANGALA LAYOUT BRANCH
P.B. No.3421, No.348, 100 Ft Road, 4th Block,
St. John Medical College Post,
Koramangala Layout, Bengaluru- 560034
Telephone: 080-25536364 e-mail: cb0885@canarabank.com.

POSSESSION NOTICE (Section 13(4)) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank **Bengaluru Kormangala Layout (0885) Branch** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice 13(2) dated **30.10.2024** calling upon the Borrower/s: **(1) Sri. J M Shivaprasad** S/o Sri Radhakrishna Shetty Mohan Babu And **(2) Smt. Kavya C S** W/o Mr. J M Shivaprasad to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.68,65,847.73** (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Sixty Five Thousands Eight Hundred Forty Seven And Paisa Seventy Three Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **10.01.2025 (Tenth day of January of the year 2025).**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs.69,73,254.16** (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Seventy Three Thousands Two Hundred Fifty Four And Paisa Sixteen Only) as on **08.01.2025** plus interest and charges thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Movable & Immovable Property:

Immovable : Schedule –A : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing plot No.2, Rajajinagar Industrial Suburb bearing Municipal No 49/4 (Old No. 49) and assigned PID No.10-1-49/4 by the BBMP BHEL Indraprastha, in Industrial Suburb near Ulhas Theathre, Mahalakshmi Layout Yeshwatpur, North Zone, Raja Ji Nagar, Bengaluru measuring East to West 172 Sq.ft and North to South 434 Sq.ft totally measuring an extent of 74,648 sq ft and bounded on the East by: Private property, West by: Private Property, North by: Property belonging to Mr. Gopal Reddy, South by: BBMP Road

Schedule B : Residential Apartment : Residential Apartment bearing No.B2 F1 A2 (Block – 2 Floor-1 Apartment No.2) measuring about 114.73 Sq mts (about 1235 sq ft) of super built up area having a carpet area of about 72.57 Sq mts (about 781.12 sq ft) in "PRATHAMM INDRAPRASTHA" along with the exclusive right to use and enjoy the balcony area of about 11.81 Sq mts (about 127.15 sft) consisting of 2BHK with RCC roofing, vitrified flooring, wood doors and aluminium windows including proportionate shares in common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase contained in the residential apartment complex known as "PRATHAMM INDRAPRASTHA" prospectively to comprise of two basements, stilt, ground and eleven upper floors constructed on the Schedule-A property with the right to one covered car parking space exclusively earmarked in the basement for the sole use and enjoyment of the purchaser(s)/allottee(s) inclusive of the proportionate share in the common area such as passage, lobbies, lift, stair-case and other areas of common use.

Schedule C : 0.34 % undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule A property measuring about 255.54 sq ft in an undivided state has been agreed to be sold by the owner/ vendor to the association of purchasers/allottes post its formation in which the purchaser or allottee shall be the member by the RERA under this agreement.

Date : 13.01.2025
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/-Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

DIRECTORATORATE FORENSIC SCIENCES, MANIPUR

E-Tender Notice
Imphal, the 3rd January, 2025

No.31/10/88-DFS/Mod/SMFC : Director , Directorate of Forensic Sciences, Manipur hereby invites 'e-Tender from the reputed Manufacturers or authorized Dealers/ Distributers/ Agents for supply of Forensic equipment,

2. Detailed tender document with terms & conditions, technical specifications etc. can be viewed, downloaded and bids to be submitted online through e-procurement/ tender portal http://manipurtenders.gov.in as per schedule.

Sd/ (Roji Rajkumari)
Director
Directorate of Forensic Sciences, Manipur

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:SEE/Tr(M)/BRAZ/EE/AEE-1/F-T6/2024-25/4690 Date:10.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry No: **KPTCL/ SEE/TR(M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/BRAZ/Earthmat-66kV Cheemangala/EPR-961 Dtd:26.12.2024** for the work of Strengthening of existing Earthmat for Augmentation of existing 12.5MVA Power transformer-2 by 20 MVA Power transformer at 66/11kV Cheemangala substation, pertaining to TL&SS Division, KPTCL Chintamani coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Maintenance) Circle, BRAZ, KPTCL, Hebbal, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey Basis. (Two part tender on Percentage Basis).

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed Notification regarding the subject tender can be got by logging on to KPTCL wesite **https://kptcl.karnataka. gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16.01.2025.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl), Transmission(M), BRAZ, KPTCL, UAS Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024, Telefax: 080-23415347.

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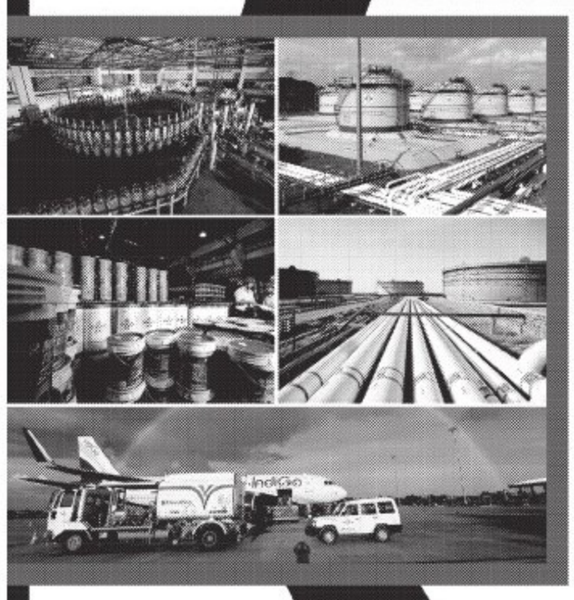

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Important dates

Commencement of online application **15th January 2025**	Last date of online application **14th February 2025**

Regd.Office: 17, Jamshedji Tata Road
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ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಅಡಿಕೆ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿ., ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ

ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ಸಾಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ-577 204

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ho@mamcos.info, ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.mamcos.info ದೂರವಾಣಿ:08182-250513, 250514

ನಮೂನೆ – XII
ನಿಯಮ 14(3)ರ ಅನ್ವಯ

ಚುನಾವಣಾ ನೋಟೀಸು

ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಅಡಿಕೆ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿಯಮಿತ (ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್) ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಇದರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರುಗಳ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು 09 ಮತದಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ (ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಸಾಗರ, ಭದ್ರಾವತಿ, ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಹೊಸನಗರ, ತರೀಕೆರೆ, ಕೊಪ್ಪ, ಶೃಂಗೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಚಿನ್ನಗಿರಿ) ದಿನಾಂಕ 04.02.2025ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದೆಂದು ನೋಟೀಸು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಉಪವಿಧಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 44(1)ರನ್ವಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ಚುನಾಯಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳು 19 (ಹತ್ತೊಂಭತ್ತು)

ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳು: 1) ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ 1 (ಒಂದು) ಸ್ಥಾನ, 2) ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ 1 (ಒಂದು) ಸ್ಥಾನ, 3) ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ 2 (ಎರಡು) ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳು, 4) ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದ 'ಎ' ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ ಮತ್ತು 'ಬಿ' ಪ್ರವರ್ಗದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ತಲಾ ಒಂದರಂತೆ 2 (ಎರಡು) ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳು ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ 06 ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ, 5) ಉಳಿದ 13 (ಹದಿಮೂರು) ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ.

ಸದರಿ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯ ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ನಿಯಮ	ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಸೂಚಿ	ದಿನಾಂಕ, ವಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳ
1	14–ಎ	ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವಂತಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ನಾಮಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.01.2025ನೇ ಶನಿವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕೊಠಡಿ
2	14–ಎ	ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವಂತಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ನಾಮಪತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.01.2025ನೇ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕೊಠಡಿ
3	14–ಬಿ	ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:28.01.2025ನೇ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕೊಠಡಿ
4	14–ಬಿ (4)	ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಸಿಂಧುತ್ವ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ನಾಮನಿರ್ದೇಶಿತ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:28.01.2025ನೇ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಂತರ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು
5	14–ಸಿ	ಉಮೇದುವಾರರಿಂದ ನಾಮಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯಲು ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.01.2025ನೇ ಬುಧವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ
6	14–ಡಿ	ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸುವ ಉಮೇದುವಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.01.2025 ನೇ ಬುಧವಾರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು
7	14–ಇ	ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಿಹ್ನೆಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ (ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಹಾಜರಿರಬಹುದು)	ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.01.2025ನೇ ಬುಧವಾರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು
8	14–ಡಿ ಮತ್ತು 14–ಇ	ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸುವ ಉಮೇದುವಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯು ಚಿಹ್ನೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.01.2025ನೇ ಬುಧವಾರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು
9		ಮತದಾನದ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.02.2025ನೇ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9.00 ರಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ	**ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುವಾರು ಸದಸ್ಯರು** / **ಮತ ಚಲಾಯಿಸ ಬೇಕಾದ ಸ್ಥಳ**
				1) ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ನ್ಯಾಮತಿ — ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ
				2) (ಎ) ಸಾಗರ (ಬಿ) ಸೊರಬ (ಸಿ) ಶಿಕಾರಿಪುರ — (ಎ) ಸಾಗರ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ (ಬಿ) ಸಾಗರ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ (ಸಿ) ಸಾಗರ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರೈತ ಭವನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ
				3) ಭದ್ರಾವತಿ — ಭದ್ರಾವತಿ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ
				4) ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿ — ಟಿ.ಎಪಿಸಿಎಂಎಸ್ ಸುವರ್ಣ ಸಹಕಾರ ಭವನದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿ
				5) ಹೊಸನಗರ — ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆ, ಮಾಪಿನಕೊಪ್ಪ, ಹೊಸನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಸನಗರ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ
				6) ತರೀಕೆರೆ, ಕಡೂರು, ಅಜ್ಜಂಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು — ತರೀಕೆರೆ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ
				7) ಕೊಪ್ಪ, ಎನ್.ಆರ್.ಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ — ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ ಬಾಳ್ಳಗಡಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪ
				8) ಶೃಂಗೇರಿ — ಶ್ರೀ ಆದಿ ಚುಂಚನಗಿರಿ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ, ಶೃಂಗೇರಿ
				9) ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ — ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ
10		ಮತ ಎಣಿಕೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.02.2025ನೇ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಮತದಾನದ ನಂತರ	ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ಸಭಾಂಗಣ, ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಆವರಣ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ
11		ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶದ ಘೋಷಣೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.02.2025ನೇ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಮತ ಎಣಿಕೆಯ ನಂತರ	ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ

ಚುನಾವಣೆಯ ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು

1. ಚುನಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 1959 ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, 1960 ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಘದ ಉಪವಿಧಿಯಂತೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 2. ಸಂಘದ ಉಪವಿಧಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 44(1) ರಿಂದ 44(4)ರನ್ವಯ ಸಂಘದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 19 ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಸಂಘದ ಕಾರ್ಯವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದೇ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಈ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಿಂದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ 19 ಜನ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ, ಒಂದು ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ, ಎರಡು ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಎರಡು ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 'ಎ' ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 'ಬಿ' ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ತಲಾ ಒಂದರಂತೆ ಮೀಸಲಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. 3. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 1959ರ ಕಲಂ, 20ರನ್ವಯ ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರರೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಲು, ಸೂಚಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಮತ ನೀಡಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದಲ್ಲ. 4. ನಾಮಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, ಕಲಂ, 29ಸಿ ರಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅನರ್ಹತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದಲ್ಲ. 5. ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.01.2025ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.01.2025ರವರೆಗೆ ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಅಡಿಕೆ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿಯಮಿತ (ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್) ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. 6. ನಾಮಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. 7. ಚುನಾವಣೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಸದಸ್ಯನೊಬ್ಬನು ಒಂದು ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದಲ್ಲ. 8. ನಾಮಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ ಚಲಾಯಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹನಾದ ಒಬ್ಬ ಸದಸ್ಯನು ಸೂಚಿಸಿ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಅರ್ಹ ಸದಸ್ಯನು ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದಲ್ಲ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, 1960 ನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 14–ಎ(1)). 9. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, 1960ರ ನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 14–ಎ(3)ರನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ನಾಮಪತ್ರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೂ.2,000/– (ಎರಡು ಸಾವಿರ) ಗಳನ್ನು ನಗದುರೂಪ ಅಥವಾ ಪೇ ಆರ್ಡರ್ ಅಥವಾ ಡಿಮಾಂಡ್ ಡ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಠೇವಣಿಸಿ ರಶೀದಿಯನ್ನು ನಾಮಪತ್ರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಮೀಸಲು ಸ್ಥಾನದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದ 'ಎ' ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ ಮತ್ತು 'ಬಿ' ಪ್ರವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಠೇವಣಿಯು ರೂ.1,000/– (ಒಂದು ಸಾವಿರ) ಮಾತ್ರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 10. ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ಮತ್ತು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ'ಎ' ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 'ಬಿ' ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ತಹಸೀಲ್ದಾರರವರಿಂದ **ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಪಡೆದ "ಮೂಲ ಜಾತಿ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ" ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು** ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 11. ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ಒಂದು ಪಾಸ್‌ಪೋರ್ಟ್ ಅಳತೆಯ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಉಮೇದುವಾರರು ಖುದ್ದು ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 12. ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಯ ವೇಳೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ಸೂಚಕರು ಹಾಜರಿರಬಹುದು. 13. ಉಮೇದುವಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ವಾಪಸ್ಸು ಪಡೆಯಬಯಸುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಖುದ್ದು ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ಆ ಬಗೆಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 14. ಮುಕ್ತ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಚಿಹ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 15. ನಾಮಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ (ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಚಿಹ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿದ 3 ಮುಕ್ತ ಚಿಹ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಬಹುದು. ಚಿಹ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯದ್ದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. (ನಿಯಮ 14ಇ). 16. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಮತದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, 1960ರ ನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 13–ಎ ರನ್ವಯ ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್‌ನವರು ನೀಡಿರುವ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರವುಳ್ಳ ಗುರುತಿನ ಕಾರ್ಡನ್ನು ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸಿ, ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಹಿಯನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ, ಗುರುತುಚೀಟಿ ಪಡೆದು, ಅದನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಗುರುತಿನ ಕಾರ್ಡನ್ನು ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸಿ ಮತ ಚಲಾಯಿಸಬಹುದು. 17. ಒಂದೇ ಮತ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ, ಮಹಿಳಾ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 'ಎ' ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 'ಬಿ' ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಆಯಾ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮತ ಪಡೆದವರನ್ನು ಆಯಾ ಮೀಸಲು ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗು ವುದು. ಉಳಿದ 13 ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮಶಃ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮತ ಪಡೆದವರನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 18. ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, 1960ರ ನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 14–ಎಇ ರನ್ವಯ ಉಮೇದುವಾರರ ಠೇವಣಿಯನ್ನು ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಅಥವಾ ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. 19. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 1959ರ ಕಲಂ, 39ಎ ಯಿಂದ 39ಕೆ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಲಂಗಳನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಅಪರಾಧಗಳೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 20. **ಮಾಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿಯು ಮತದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ. ಇತರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಧವಾದ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.**

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.01.2025

ಸಹಿ/– (ರವಿಚಂದ್ರ ನಾಯಕ್, ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್.)
ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಅಡಿಕೆ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ
ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ತುಂಗಾ ಮೇಲ್ದಂಡೆ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

REGIONAL OFFICE SOUTH BENGALURU

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis **30.01.2025 from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** [with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of sale], for recovery of below mentioned amount.
The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below –

Sl No.	1.Name of the borrower 2.Name of the Branch	Description of the Property	Total Dues	Date & Time of Auction	Reserve Price EMD Amount Increment amount	Contact Person
1	**1.Mr. Ashit B Kurbet 2.Branch : J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase,** Bangalore email:cb0492@canarabank.com	Flat beraing **No. 106,** 1st Floor, " NEHA SADAN" apartment, located in property beraing Site No. 7, Old Khata No. 193, Present BBMP New municipal No. 730/253/254/11/7, Ward No. 171, Sy. No. 11, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South - 560 068.	**Rs. 72,54,614.77** (Seventy Two Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Fourteen Rupees & Seventy Seven Paisa Only) plus further interest from 01.01.2025 and other expenses	**30.01.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM**	**Rs. 40.21 Lacs Rs.4.021 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs**	Mr. Azad Kumar Boipai, Chief Manager, Ph : 9661805035-080-26592667
2	**1.Mr. Ashit B Kurbet 2.Branch : J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase,** Bangalore email:cb0492@canarabank.com	Flat beraing **No. 303,** 1st Floor, " NEHA SADAN" apartment, located in proeprty beraing Site No. 7, Old Khata No. 193, Present BBMP New municipal No. 730/253/254/11/7, Sy. No. 11, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South - 560 068.	**Rs.84,65,983.15** (Eighty Four Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Three Rupees and Fifteen Paisa Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.01.2025 and other expenses	**30.01.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM**	**Rs.41.82 Lacs Rs.4.182 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs**	
3	**1.Mr. Mallesh Kumar. 2.Branch : J.P.

Pavithran, an elderly man from Kannur district, who was believed to be dead, was found alive at the mortuary of the AKG Memorial Cooperative Hospital on Tuesday. The mortuary attendant discovered signs of life moments before his body was to be placed in the facility

WAYANAD LANDSLIDE

Kerala govt to declare missing victims as dead

Decision huge relief to families of 35 victims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

THE state government has decided to declare those who went missing in the Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslides as dead, which will help their immediate relatives get ex-gratia payments. On Tuesday, the government issued a directive to form committees which will carry out the procedures required to declare the missing people as dead.

The decision has come as a huge relief for families of 35 people who went missing in the disaster that struck havoc in the hilly region in Wayanad on July 30 last year. The government had earlier announced guidelines to provide financial aid, including ex-gratia, to the relatives of those who died in the mishap. The committees will be formed at the local as well as the state levels.

According to the government order, the revenue department officials will collect FIRs registered in connection with missing people. The officials will prepare special inquiry reports, marking that the missing persons could not be located.

The local-level committee will include the panchayat secretary, village officer, and the police station house officer as members. The committee will prepare a list of the missing people and submit it before the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), which will in turn examine the list and forward it to the state-level committee with proper suggestions.

The state-level committee will have additional chief secretary (home), principal secretary (revenue and disaster management) and principal secretary (local self-government) as members. The state-level committee will submit the list provided by the local-level committee to the state government after proper scrutiny. The government will issue an order providing ex-gratia to the relatives of the deceased by considering them as dead, the government order said.

Outsourced TTD staffer held for stealing gold from temple

PTI @ Tirupati

A 40-year-old outsourced employee of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) was arrested from Lord Venkateswara Swamy's temple here for allegedly stealing over half a kg of gold received from devotees as offerings to the deity, said a police official on Tuesday.

Police arrested V Penchalayya for allegedly stealing 650 grams of gold worth Rs 46 lakh in the form of biscuits and jewellery over 10 to 15 times in the past one year, said the official.

"Penchalayya used to work in Parakamani, where offerings to the deity are sorted and he indulged in stealing gold offered to the deity," the official told PTI. At Parakamani, offerings such as cash, gold, jewellery and others are sorted. Cash is deposited in a bank while other valuables are safeguarded.

According to the police, Penchalayya, who was working in Parakmani over the past two years, was caught while trying to steal a gold biscuit by slipping it into a vehicle and was arrested on January 12 and sent to remand on Monday. Police recovered entire 650 grams stolen gold from Penchalayya.

He was held under BNS Section 316 (5) for criminal breach of trust, the official added.

LORD'S SACRED ABODE

Thiruvabharanam (sacred ornaments) for the deity, brought from the Pandalam temple, being carried up the Holy Steps at Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple for Makaravilakku on Tuesday | SHAJI VETTIPURAMY

Senior leaders meet DKS over factionalism in Cong

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

CONCERNED over the internal strife in the Congress, and a power struggle threatening its unity, a group of senior Congress leaders met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at his residence in Sadashivanagar, raising alarm about growing factionalism within the party.

The group includes former ministers Rani Satish and BL Shankar, former MLCs Kondajji Mohan and PR Ramesh, former Legislative Council chairman VR Sudarshan, former MP VS Ugrappa, Chairman of Guarantees HM Revanna, former Backward Classes Commission chairman CS Dwarakanath, HS Chandramouli, Venkateshwar, Amarnath and other influential figures.

The leaders, who have held key positions in the party, had met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to advise him on the MUDA issue a few months ago. Now, they are focusing on the party's internal divisions, warning that unless immediate action is taken, the future of Congress could be at risk.

The leaders voiced their concern about the ongoing power struggles, particularly over the chief ministerial post. Shivakumar spoke to them frankly for over an hour on the rising tensions in the party.

Shivakumar asked the group how he could continue as the state president while engaging in factionalism. He emphasized the hard work he had put into building the party from the ground up, contrasting it with the previous leadership's efforts. "When I was in Tihar Jail in 2022, Sonia Gandhi told me, 'Don't lose heart, strengthen the party'," he recalled, and also his efforts at leading the party to victory in the 2023 elections.

Shivakumar also spoke of other battles, like shielding Gujarat Congress MLAs during AICC general secretary Ahmed Patel's election to the Rajya Sabha, and how the NDA-BJP had allegedly used the IT and ED against him. Despite the accusations, Shivakumar assured the group that the Congress leadership, specifically Sonia Gandhi, knew the full extent of his sacrifices and work in election victories. He recalled how, in spite of his best efforts to protect Congress MLAs, they were later poached by the BJP.

On their concerns over rising factionalism, Shivakumar reassured them that he and other leaders are committed to keeping the party united, despite the internal challenges.

EXPRESS READ

Train coach derails in TN, services briefly disrupted

Villupuram: A coach wheel of a MEMU train bound for Puducherry derailed at the railway yard on Tuesday during the shunting process and no one was injured, the Southern Railway said. The passengers waiting for the MEMU train were accommodated in Dadar-Puducherry express which was halted at all stations enroute to Puducherry to ensure their travel without further delay, an official railway release said. The Villupuram-Puducherry MEMU is a short distance train covering about 38 km. **PTI**

Giant balloon makes emergency landing in Palakkad

PALAKKAD : A giant elephant-shaped hot air balloon flown as part of the 10th International Balloon Festival organised by the Tamil Nadu tourism department made an emergency landing at Mullanthode in Kannimari, about 30km away Palakkad, on Tuesday morning. The balloon, which had flown approximately 20km from Pollachi, carried four people, which included the sons of a senior TN police officer and two flight operators. The incident occurred around 8am, when the balloon ran out of gas and began to descend.

Odisha govt plans pharma hub in state

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
@Bhubaneswar

AFTER the metal, mineral and food processing sectors, Odisha is now gearing up to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub, which could be a game-changer for employment generation and economic growth in the state.

Ahead of the mega investment summit Utkarsh Odisha: Make-in-Odisha Conclave 2025, the state government has set up a Odisha Pharmaceutical Development Cell (OPDC) to create a robust ecosystem for the pharma sector and attract global investments.

The cell headed by chief secretary will serve as a bridge between the state and potential investors, facilitating collaborations and expediting investments.

The cell has been tasked to craft a comprehensive Odisha Pharmaceutical Policy 2025 and implement a roadmap for a dedicated pharmaceutical special economic zone (SEZ), official sources said.

Locations on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Balasore are being considered for setting up these parks, given their strategic connectivity and existing industrial base, officials said.

KT Rama Rao, Harish Rao placed under house arrest

PTI @ Hyderabad

SENIOR BRS leaders **KT Rama Rao** and T Harish Rao were on Tuesday placed under 'house arrest' here by the police following the arrest of party MLA P Kaushik Reddy.

Former ministers Rama Rao and Harish Rao were placed under 'house arrest' at their residences here, the BRS claimed.

BRS legislator from the Huzurabad constituency Kaushik Reddy was on Monday arrested in connection with a case registered against him for allegedly abusing Jagtial legislator Sanjay Kumar at a district review committee meeting in Karimnagar on January 12.

Three cases were registered against Kaushik Reddy after a heated argument broke out between him and Sanjay Kumar at the review committee meeting.

Kaushik Reddy and Sanjay Kumar engaged in a war of words after the former questioned the latter about his party affiliation.

He was arrested based on a complaint lodged by the PA of the Jagtial MLA, who accused him of "obstructing, abusing and physically assaulting" Sanjay Kumar, police said.

Sanjay Kumar, who had switched to the ruling Congress from Bharat Rashtra Samithi in June 2024, lodged a complaint against Kaushik Reddy with Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker G Prasad Kumar on Monday.

The BRS leaders had strongly condemned the arrest of Kaushik Reddy.

NARAYANAN HELPED BOOST VARIOUS ISRO LAUNCHERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UNDER his leadership, LPSC delivered 226 liquid propulsion systems and control power plants for launch vehicles and satellites of ISRO.

The development of cryogenic propulsion systems put India among six countries with this capability and ensured self-reliance in launch vehicles. He was also the chairman of LPSC-ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPrC) Coordination Committee, chairman of Project Management Council-Space Transportation System (PMC-STS), and the National Level Human Rated Certification Board (HRCB) of Gaganyaan programme. Holding various chairs, he guided the teams in operational and development activities of launching various ISRO vehicles.

When India was denied cryogenic technology for GSLV Mk-II vehicle, Narayanan designed the engine systems, developed necessary software tools, contributed for establishing the necessary infrastructure/test facilities, qualification and completion of Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) and made it operational.

As project director for C25 Cryogenic Project of LVM3 vehicle, he successfully developed the C25 Cryogenic Stage powered by a 20-tonne thrust engine and played a vital role in successfully launching LVM3 vehicle in its maiden attempt, making the stage operational. His M.Tech thesis and PhD work at IIT Kharagpur were employed in the cryogenic propulsion systems development, ISRO said. Narayanan completed his M.Tech in Cryogenic Engineering and PhD in Aerospace Engineering, and bagged the silver medal for first rank in the M.Tech programme. He was honoured with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2018 and Life Fellowship Award 2023 by IIT Kharagpur.

Narayanan started his career with TI Diamond Chain Limited, Madras Rubber Factory, BHEL in Trichy and in Ranipet for one-and-a-half years before joining ISRO in 1984 — beginning a journey to be promoted to the highest level as Distinguished Scientist (APEX Scale).

KL HC grants bail to Boby Chemmanur

ENS @ Kochi

THE Kerala High Court on Tuesday granted bail to businessman Boby Chemmanur who was arrested in a sexual harassment case filed against him by a Malayalam actor.

While granting bail, Justice P V Kunhikrishnan said, "Body shaming is not acceptable in our society. Comments about the body of a person as too fat, too skinny, too short, too tall, too dark, too black, etc. should be avoided. Our bodies will change, our minds will change and our hearts will change. Everybody should be vigilant while making comments about others, whether they are men or women."

The court made it clear that the prosecution and the victim are at liberty to approach the jurisdictional court to cancel the bail if there is any violation of the conditions.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R.W.S.& S. DIVISION, NABARANGPUR
2ND CORRIGENDUM NOTICE FOR BID IDENTIFICATION OF E.E.(R.W.S.&S)
O-1223 05/2024-25/RWSS/NABARANGPUR

1. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the online bidding period for bid identification No :- **05/2024-25/RWSS/NABARANGPUR** has been revised. The updated details are provided in the table below

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for Bidding From	To	Last Date of seeking tender Clarification	Last date of receipt of confirmation letter & other	Date of opening of Bid
Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Nabarangpur	RWSS_NGP_ONLINE_05 of 2024-25	20.01.2025 at 05.00PM	31.01.2025 at 05.00PM	30.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM	31.01.2025 up to 05.00P.M.	01.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

OIPR- 25028/11/0009/2425
Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.W.S&S Division, Nabarangpur

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2024_KMML_720298_1	For the supply of Plate Inconnel-0.5 MT
2	2025_KMML_725311_1	For Fabrication & supply of FRP Panels for Filtrate Thickner
3	2025_KMML_725315_1	For Fabrication & supply of Heavy End Reboiler
4	2025_KMML_725599_1	For the supply of Tray Titanium for Eimco Filter-1 ST
5	2025_KMML_725564_1	For the supply of Petals for Digester-36 M2
6	2025_KMML_724127_1	For the supply of Brick acid Resistant for Digester
7	2025_KMML_722635_1	For the supply of Class 1 Brick Acid Resistant
8	2024_KMML_718587_1	For the supply of Strip Type Corrugated Heating Element
9	2025_KMML_726004_1	Tender for settling Pond 1 capping with LDPE sheets/suitable material in KMML
10	2025_KMML_726087_1	For the procurement of 3 Ton Electric Forklift

Chavara 14.01.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (LCMG)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5193, 5093, 5086, Fax: (080)-28392310]
BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)
On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tender are invited for the following works:
Name of the work: Proposed Conference Hall extension AHU room construction at ground floor Admin Block, LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Civil Works) NIET No: LEOS/CMG/CW-01/2024-25/R1 Dtd: 08.01.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 57.77Lakhs; EMD Rs: 1,15,538/-; Period of Completion in months :** 05 Months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 10.01.2025; **Closing Date :** 28.01.2025
Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO
-Sd-
GROUP DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)
URSC, BANGALORE.

Sl No.	1.Name of the borrower 2.Name of the Branch	Description of the Property		Total Dues	Date & Time of Auction	Reserve Price EMD Amount Increment amount	Contact Person
22	1.Mr. Naresh M 2.Branch : Jayanagar 3rd Block Branch, No. 69 9th Main Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011 Email: cb10409@canarabank.com	Residential Flat No. SF-1, Second Floor, " Arihanth MSR Neepa", Site No. 34 & 41, Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore - 560 078, bounded by : For Site No. 34 East: Site No. 41 & 42 West: Road North: Site No. 33 South : Site No. 36	For Site No. 41 East: Road West: Plot No. 34 & 35 North: Plot No. 40 South : Plot No.33	Rs.86,22,563.62 (Rupees Eighty Six lakhs twenty two thousand five hundred and sixty three and Paisa sixty two Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.01.2025 and other expenses	30.01.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs. 49.75 Lacs Rs.4.975 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Sri Naba Kishore Behera Chief Manager, Ph 7892606293 080-26631598

The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer .
Known encumbrances, if any: NIL
The EMD should be deposited on or before 29.01.2025 up to 4.00 pm, The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.canarabank.com/english/announcements/sale-notice/karnataka/ provided on the Secured Creditors' Website i.e www.canarabank. com. or may contact **above menioned branches** during office hours on any working day.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Place: Bangalore Canara Bank
Date :13.01.2025

MANIPUR STATE POWER COMPANY LIMITED
Keishampat Junction, Imphal – 795001
Corporate Office:- Electricity Complex, Patta No. 1293 under 87(2), Khwai Bazar. Keishampat, Imphal 795001. Manipur, INDIA
Fax: +91385 2450702 Tele: +91385 2450050
No. 4/11KV/XLPE/RIMS/2024/MSPCL(PURCH)/4718-24 Imphal, the 10th January 2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Ltd (MSPCL), a Government of Manipur Enterprises invites sealed tenders In triplicate from the eligible turnkey firms/contractors for execution of the following work.

Tender Specification No	Particulars	NIT value (Inclusive of GST)	Cost of Tender Paper	Last date of receipt of request for Tender Paper	Due date of receipt of completed Tender	Due date of Opening of Tender
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
4/9/25	Supply & Installation of 11KV XLPE cable for 2x2000KVA and 2x800 KVA, 11/0.440KV Transformer from 33/11KV RIMS Sub-Station to RIMS Gymkhana on turnkey basis.	Rs. 28.50 Lakh	Rs. 10,000/-	22.01.2025 upto 2.00 p.m.	31.01.2025 upto 2.00 p.m.	03.02.2025 at 2.00 p.m.

2 Bidding Documents shall be available from the office of the **Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Limited, Keishampat, Imphal – 795001, Manipur, India.**
3. The application request for the NIT along with cost of the tender paper (Non-refundable) shown above. in the form of Demand Draft/D-at-Call/FDR/Banker Cheque from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank preferably having its branch at Imphal (preferably State Bank of Indla). drawn in favour of the **Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Limited** should be submitted to the **Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Limited, Keishampat, Imphal - 795001, Manipur, India.**
Sd/- (Ng. Subhachandra Singh)
Managing Director, MSPCL

EDITORIAL

"I briefly did therapy, but after a while realised it is just like a farmer complaining about the weather. You can't fix the weather—you just have to get on with it

Douglas Adams

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

FOCUS ON BOOSTING LABOUR-INTENSIVE SECTORS FOR GROWTH

ON the political front, the Union government has shored itself well with convincing wins in Haryana and Maharashtra. But the bleak economic scenario—and growing global headwinds—have pushed the finance ministry pundits into a pre-Budget huddle. Reports suggest the government is keen on a slew of measures to reverse the pronounced slowdown and tepid consumption. India's GDP growth is projected at 6.4 percent for 2024-25, the slowest in four years. This will be a drag on the next year too, with growth projections for 2025-26 not exceeding 6.7 percent. Discussions in the huddle seem to be underlining tax relief for the middle class to boost consumption, protecting industry from external competition with tariffs. and boosting private investment and job creation.

Meanwhile, global challenges are threatening to raise inflation. The latest sanctions by Washington have put Beijing and Delhi on notice on discounted oil purchases from Moscow. This will mean shifting to more expensive crude from West Asia and elsewhere. At the same time, volatility in international markets has sunk the rupee to its lowest at 86.62 against the dollar. Exports should have benefited from this change, but a sharp fall in the export of petroleum products and a surge in gold imports widened the trade deficit to a record high of $38 billion in November. Import-dependent industries like automobiles and IT will soon be forced to raise prices.

By all counts, Budget 2025 needs to provide stimulus to crank up demand and consumption. Tax breaks are one way to put more money in the consumer's pocket—in other words, a bailout for the middle class. Creation of jobs—not just through government infrastructure spending, but through enhanced private investment as well—is another route to the same end. Empowering millions of smaller enterprises through easier rules and credit access must not just be a slogan. Funding of financial technology services, at $1.9 billion this year, has shrunk for the third year in a row. These trends have to be reversed. Job creation, more than bailouts or handouts, is a more sustainable way to spur growth. That is why the government must extend the success of the rural employment guarantee scheme to urban India with incentives for labour-intensive industries such as construction, textiles and tourism.

ODISHA MUST ACT ON ITS LAW & ORDER PLEDGE

A spurt in disturbing crimes is a definite sign of worry for the Odisha government. Last week, a former police volunteer was bludgeoned to death by criminals in the heart of Bhubaneswar. Happening hours before the opening of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the central government's mega diaspora outreach event, the gory murder in the heart of a decked-up capital rocked the state. That even the thick security blanket deployed ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival could not deter the act must stir the Mohan Charan Majhi government to action.

It's hardly about a single incident. Over the past four months, the stacking up of heinous crimes is a grim pointer to the increasing lawlessness across the state. On January 4, jewellery robbers shot dead two onlookers in Jajpur, hours before the chief minister's scheduled visit to the district. A ₹20-crore gold heist in broad daylight in Sambalpur was another setback to the law enforcement agencies. Late last year, a horrendous spate of sex crimes against underage girls ripped through Rourkela, a bustling steel city. In neighbouring Sundargarh town, a mob stripped naked a group of construction workers from West Bengal and paraded them in public, presuming them to be Bangladeshi immigrants at a time when Hindus were under attack in the strife-torn neighbouring country. If that's not enough, members of minority communities have openly voiced their rising apprehension.

The BJP won a decisive mandate against the BJD using rising crimes against women as a major poll plank. Now it appears to be watching the situation spiral out of control. The saffron party, which often targeted the previous dispensation for its stodgy bureaucratic governance, carried out a systemic cleansing in the police administration after coming to power. A new chief was appointed, too. Yet, law enforcement has slipped on the ground. One must not forget the tricky situation the state police got into over the custodial torture of an army man and his fiancée. Chief Minister Majhi has been pitching Odisha as the next big investment destination in the country, often citing political stability and peace as major attractive factors. As someone who is also the state's home minister, he must walk the talk and arrest the worsening trend.

QUICK TAKE

LEARNING FROM KUMBH

ISN'T it a paradox that a country that regularly manages the world's largest crowd at the Kumbh also witnesses deaths in temples stampedes almost every year? Those close to the six devotees who recently perished in a crush at Tirupati would be wondering why we cannot learn from the much larger crowd control exercise. Here are three lessons from Kumbh that can help manage temple runs. Have a clear estimate of the crowd size, especially on surge days—made easier nowadays with aggregated phone location data. Appoint dedicated police and administrative heads, especially during festivals. Let these law and order chiefs work closely with the temple authorities for the smartest resource allocation.

As it turns 150, the India Meteorological Department can look back at a legacy of continuous evolution. In the future, it needs to grow its observation network and sharpen its city forecasts

THE CHANGING SKIES OF OUR WEATHER OFFICE

MADHAVAN NAIR RAJEEVAN

Vice Chancellor, Atria University, Bengaluru; Former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

MANOAR PARDIKAR

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrates 150 years of distinguished service today. From humble beginnings in 1875, the IMD has evolved into one of the world's most advanced and reliable meteorological organisations. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and guided by a legacy of scientific excellence, the IMD has been at the forefront of safeguarding lives and livelihoods through weather forecasts and early warning systems. As the institution commemorates this historic milestone, it's a moment to reflect on its remarkable journey and contributions to India and the global community.

The colonial government had a natural fascination for meteorological observations. By 1874, there were about 80 observatories across India. On January 15, 1875, Henry Blanford assumed charge as the head of the new IMD. The department was established against the backdrop of the havoc caused by a tropical cyclone in 1864 and two famines in 1866 and 1871 that killed tens of thousands.

At the time, the IMD's two priority areas were shipping and agriculture, the lifelines of the economy. The focus sharpened and broadened in subsequent decades. In a country suffering from chronic droughts and erratic rainfall, the department established a division of agricultural meteorology as early as 1932. After the Second World War, civil aviation experienced rapid growth, requiring significant operational support as all phases of aircraft operations are influenced by weather. Today, the IMD caters to the diverse needs of multiple sectors including construction and energy.

In recent times, the department started growing rapidly from 2006 when it became part of the newly created ministry of earth sciences. The ministry provided IMD with funds to upgrade its observational network and develop state-of-the-art prediction systems. Today, the IMD's network comprises more than 2,000 surface observatories, 6,000 rain gauges, more than 100 upper-air observatories, 40 remote-sensing Doppler radars, several agro-meteorological stations, and advanced satellite systems.

The Monsoon Mission—an initiative launched by the ministry in 2012 and followed by subsequent phases started in 2017 and 2021—has played a pivotal role in enhancing forecasting capabilities. By 2017, the resolution of global weather prediction models had increased tenfold over a decade or so, from 120 km to 12 km, while regional models improved from 27 km to 3 km. The lead period for these models also quickened from 48 hours to 10-day forecasts with three-hour intervals. The IMD now operates climate models for extended-range predictions, for 10-30 days, and seasonal forecasts extending up to nine months.

One critical service is the tropical cyclone forecast, whose capabilities improved substantially after the devastating 1999 Odisha 'super cyclone', in which about 10,000 lives were lost in the state. In 2013, when a similarly intense cyclone—named Phailin—struck Odisha, the casualties were fewer than 10, showcasing the remarkable improvement in forecasting. The accuracy of cyclone forecasts has increased from about 20 percent in the early 2000s to over 80 percent by 2020.

There have also been significant improvements in predicting heavy rainfall events, particularly in day-3 forecasts, which are now more accurate at times than day-1 forecasts. In 2017, the ambitious Thunderstorm Project was launched to enhance the accuracy of thunderstorm and lightning forecasts. As a result, the precision for 24-hour predictions and three-hour 'nowcast' guidance has significantly improved. Heatwave forecasts today move seamlessly from short ranges to seasonal time scales, achieving higher success rates. In 2019, the IMD also launched an air-quality warning system for Delhi.

The department now employs two advanced 'ensemble' systems that analyse multiple forecasts and provide 10-day predictions with high reliability up to five days—an improvement of two days from earlier. Probabilistic forecasts, such as the Extreme Forecast Index, offer a lead time of 4-5 days for extreme weather events. These medium-range forecasts have proven invaluable for farmers.

Independent evaluations have demonstrated that IMD's agro-meteorological advisories significantly benefit farmers, particularly those in low-income groups. It was inferred that the investment of ₹1 in these advisories realises a 50-fold benefit through gains to below-poverty-line farming and fishing families.

Improved warnings with increased accuracy and longer lead times have helped disaster managers and the general public minimise losses. This progress stems from systematic advancements in data assimilation and the development of high-resolution prediction models.

While significant progress has been made, there remain areas for improvement. The skill of deterministic forecasts for extremely heavy rainfall events is limited to 1-2 days. Accurately predicting such events with more lead time remains a considerable challenge.

Local weather forecasts, particularly for major cities, require further refinement. Seasonal forecasts, though improved, still fall short of their potential predictability, necessitating better simulation of monsoon teleconnections and addressing systematic model errors.

The improvement of observation networks will significantly enhance data quality and forecast efficiency. To deepen the understanding of monsoon dynamics and cloud physics, research testbeds at Bhopal and Mumbai were established.

Future advances in prediction will focus on implementing global ensemble systems with horizontal resolutions of 1-3 km, enabling a more accurate representation of physical processes. The IMD is transitioning to an ensemble prediction system with a 6-km horizontal resolution, an improvement over the current 12-km resolution. Using supercomputers capable of 20-petaflop speeds (equivalent of 20,000 terabytes a second), it's well positioned to be at the global level too.

By embracing cutting-edge technologies and continually improving its forecasting systems, the IMD can sustain its legacy as a leader in weather and climate services. From its origins in 1875 to its position today as a beacon of scientific excellence, the department's journey underscores its unwavering commitment to serving the nation.

(Views are personal)

DAM-BUILDING SPREE IS A ZERO-SUM GAME

C P RAJENDRAN

Adjunct professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies; author of *The Rumbling Earth: The Story of Indian Earthquakes*

IT has been widely reported that China has approved the construction of the world's largest hydropower dam in Tibet on the Yarlung Tsangpo river. When the river enters Arunachal Pradesh, it's known as Siang; it continues as the Brahmaputra in Assam and the Jamuna in Bangladesh.

The proposed dam has the potential to generate 60 gigawatts of hydropower. Chinese authorities assert the project is vital for achieving the nation's goal of attaining carbon neutrality by 2060.

As the news spread about China's plan to build the dam in Mêdog county, the Indian government was quick to reiterate its own plans to dam the Himalayan rivers. India is also reportedly considering a 12-GW hydropower project in the remote east and wants to conduct feasibility surveys.

The protests against the proposed 12-GW Upper Siang hydropower project by residents of the affected areas in Arunachal Pradesh gathered momentum after the state decided to deploy central armed police forces to keep protestors away to begin the survey. Activists and residents have long opposed the proposed dam, fearing displacement and considering the project's environmental impact. Representatives of residents of affected villages had written to the Union home ministry and the state government opposing claims recently made that most residents support it.

When India expressed its reservations about the Chinese initiative to build the dam, it rightfully said the project will affect water availability in the lower riparian countries. The Chinese foreign ministry defended the plan, claiming it would not do so. The Chinese claim is false—but India's justification for building a mega dam is also built on the wrong edifice.

Consider the reaction of Arunachal's Deputy CM Chowna Mein, who explained how the Siang dam will help counter the Mêdog dam: "If China releases water, the entire Siang, Brahmaputra Valley, and Guwahati's Saraighat Bridge will be submerged. To address this, our government has decided to construct the Siang Dam. It is not only intended for generating electricity, but it will also assist us in managing the water from the Chinese side."

Similar concerns regarding the Chinese dam have been expressed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, who remarked, "If this dam is established, the Brahmaputra ecosystem will become entirely fragile; it will dry up and will solely depend on the rainwater from Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh." Their claims are also self-contradictory; as a lower riparian state, Bangladesh could raise the same objections to India's attempts to construct a mega dam.

In the past several decades, China and India have competed intensely in constructing hydroelectric dams in this ecologically fragile and seismically vulnerable region. Two hydropower projects are currently under construction in Arunachal Pradesh on the tributaries of the Brahmaputra: the 600 MW Kameng project on the Bichom and Tenga rivers and the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project. Meanwhile, China has completed 11 of the 55 such projects planned for the Tibetan region.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

> China and India have competed to construct dams in the ecologically fragile and seismically vulnerable Himalayas, like the 600-MW Kameng project on the Bichom and Tenga rivers. It's time for a Himalayan Water Commission involving all countries in the region

The entire Himalayan region is known to host active faults defined by high seismicity. Landslides and glacier lake outbursts are generic to this mountainous topography. About 15 percent of the great earthquakes in the 20th century occurred in the Himalayas. The northeast Himalayan bend has experienced several large earthquakes of magnitude seven and above in the last 100 years. With a magnitude of 8.6, the August 15, 1950, earthquake on the Assam-Myanmar border is the largest continental event ever recorded.

The 2015 Gorkha earthquake, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, struck central Nepal and, despite being significantly smaller than the 1950 event, caused substantial losses to the hydropower sector. Nepal lost approximately 20 percent of its hydropower capacity, damaging about 30 projects with a combined capacity of 270 MW, primarily situated along steep river valleys.

Heavy siltation, resulting from massive landslides anticipated at project sites and in the headwater region following future earthquake-induced ground shaking, will diminish the lifespan of these dams. Even in the absence of earthquakes, the steep slopes of soft rocks are likely to collapse due to deforestation and road construction—activities expected to escalate as part of dam-building projects. The northeast Himalayan bend, marked by deep gorges and numerous seismic sources, is deemed the least suitable area within the Himalayas for large dams. Additionally, studies indicate how the reservoirs, with their water load, may alter the strain field, thereby increasing the frequency of earthquakes.

The Himalayas are a transnational mountain chain and the chief driver of the Asian climate. Known as the Third Pole, it is a source of numerous river systems and glaciers. However, it is now threatened by degradation due to global warming.

The ongoing low-level military confrontations between India and China have led to demands for further infrastructural expansion on both sides, much to the detriment of numerous biodiversity hotspots and livelihoods of indigenous people.

It is in the interest of the region to explore the possibility of a Himalayan River Commission involving all the headwater and downstream countries, rather than engaging in an unsustainable dam-building spree. India and China must seek ways of transforming this 'roof of the world' into a natural reserve for the sake of humanity. Carbon neutrality should not be at the expense of the environment.

(Views are personal)
(cprajendran@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Trump treatment

Ref: *Trump's discharge in felony cases bodes ill for democracy* (Jan 14). Donald Trump's re-election speaks volumes of his political acumen. He may have some weaknesses, but we are not looking for a saint in Washington. Look at Joe Biden, George Bush Jr, Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon. Being one who lived in the US for several years, I salute Trump.
Jose Kariamadam, email

Olympic mission

Ref: *Olympic schemes need pruning for efficiency* (Jan 14). The restructuring of the schemes is a positive step, but sustained effort is crucial. It is necessary to make way for youngsters who can carry the baton, and let go of seniors who are being retained for sentimental reasons. Success at the Olympics is not just a matter of individual effort but a reflection of a nation's commitment to excellence.
Gowri Nayak, Mumbai

Fair restructuring

Restructuring the Mission Olympic Cell and Target Olympic Podium Scheme are positive steps, but addressing conflicts of interest are also crucial. Transparency and fairness must be ensured while including diverse stakeholders. Success at Los Angeles in 2028 will require long-term planning and a focus on high-performance coaching.
Syeda Rabia Basri, email

Animal rights

Ref: *Bihar man held for cutting cows' udders* (Jan 14). This Bengaluru incident is disturbing. Cruel acts such as mutilation of animals reflect deeper issues like lack of empathy and respect for living beings. I feel animal rights should be treated at par with human rights.
Belicia Reginald, Bengaluru

Talented cops

Ref: *In last two years, 24 cops sought nod to pursue their passion* (Jan 14). The report shows that policing is a profession that can attract diverse talents. Those officials with passion for other pursuits should make good cops. One memorable case of profession meeting passion was Tamil actor Sathyan, who was a police official before taking to films.
Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Poignant report

Ref: *New father's joy turns to tragedy* (Jan 14). I was deeply moved by the story. It's tragic to read about the 35-year-old who, elated at his son's birth, died outside the hospital in the harsh cold. The story left a lasting impact on the psyche, drawing attention to the themes of responsibility, endurance and sacrifice.
P V Prakash, Mumbai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath

Kumbh is the living form of our Sanatan culture. On the auspicious 'Makar Sankranti', congratulations to all who earned virtue by taking the first 'Amrit Snan'

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge

Modiji, your government is unable to arrest the steep slide of the ever-weakening Rupee. The people are suffering the repercussions of this incompetence.

Saket Gokhale @SaketGokhale

In last 1 year, Modi govt's income tax collection went up by 16%. Ordinary Indians pay more in income tax than large companies pay through corporate tax.

End terror network in PoK: Rajnath

Says terror camps running in areas adjacent to border, warns Pak against 'nefarious designs'

MAYANK SINGH & FAYAZ WANI
@ New Delhi/ Srinagar

Rajnath Singh during the Armed Forces Veterans' Day function at Akhnoor | PTI

> **Pakistan will have to put an end to its nefarious designs... training camps for terrorists are running and launch pads have been built in areas adjacent to the border. Indian government is well aware**
>
> Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday described Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) as India's "crown jewel". He said PoK was "nothing more than a foreign territory" for Pakistan, which was using that land "for terrorism" purposes.

He said the government's priority is to end whatever "dil ki doori" exists between Kashmir and the rest of the country and warned Pakistan to end terrorism or face consequences.

In Akhnoor, Jammu leading the Armed Forces Veterans' Day celebrations, Singh said, "J&K is incomplete without PoK. People there are deprived of a dignified life. Pakistan makes efforts to mislead and provoke them against India in the name of religion. PoK's land is being used for terrorism."

Asserting that Pakistan "will have to put an end to its nefarious designs," the minister said: "Training camps for terrorists are running and launch pads have been built in the areas adjacent to the border. The Indian government is well aware of the situation."

He interacted with the veterans and expressed gratitude to the Armed Forces personnel, both retired and serving, for their selfless service towards protecting the borders with unmatched bravery, dedication, sacrifice and patriotism.

The defence minister said 2025 marked the diamond jubilee of the 1965 Indo-Pak war and India's victory was the result of the valour and sacrifice of the Armed Forces.

He recalled that in the Akhnoor sector, a significant fight took place during the war. "The Pakistan army launched Operation Grand Slam with nefarious designs but the Indian army not only defeated their designs but also started another war front and had reached near Lahore".

Referring to Pakistan's links with terrorism, he said: "Pakistan has lost every war it fought with India. Pakistan has been promoting illegal infiltration and terrorism since 1965 and has tried to influence the local population in J&K. But the people here have always rejected their intentions. Pakistan still resorts to terrorism. Even today, over 80% of terrorists who come to India are from there."

He said Pakistan-sponsored terrorism "would have ended in 1965" itself had the then government "not turned the strategic advantages gained on the battlefield into disadvantages". The situation on the ground has significantly improved since the abrogation of Article 370," he pointed out.

Singh said Kashmir was treated differently by previous governments in the past as a result of which "our brothers and sisters in the region could not get connected with Delhi as it should have been. I don't want to turn those pages of history. The old days have gone now".

"Our government's top priority is to end whatever 'dil ki doori' is there between Kashmir and the rest of the country," the minister said, adding that "celebrating Veteran's Day in Akhnoor proves that the place we have in our hearts for Delhi, the same is for Akhnoor and Kashmir".

As part of the event, Singh hoisted a 108-feet high national flag and inaugurated the 'Akhnoor Heritage Museum'.

Send back Indians duped into fighting war, Russia told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

NEW DELHI on Tuesday reiterated its demand that Russia should send back the Indian nationals who were duped into serving in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

This follows the death of 32-year-old Indian national Binil T B, who was killed while fighting for the Russian Army on the frontlines of the Russia-Ukraine war. His relative, 27-year-old Jain T K, has sustained serious injuries.

Both men hailed from Wadakkanchery in Kerala's Thrissur district. Binil's family recently received a message indicating that the two were injured in a drone attack some days ago, but they have been unable to establish contact with them since.

"The matter has been strongly taken up with the Russian authorities in Moscow as well as the Russian Embassy in New Delhi. We have also reiterated our demand for the early discharge of the remaining Indian nationals," External Affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said while responding to the question regarding the death of an Indian national in Russia.

"We have learnt of the unfortunate death of an Indian national from Kerala who had apparently been recruited to serve in the Russian Army. Another Indian national from Kerala, who was similarly recruited, has been injured and is receiving treatment in a hospital in Moscow," he said.

The Indian mission in Moscow is in touch with the families, and all possible assistance is being rendered, the official said. According to official data, nine Indians died while serving in the Russian Army in the last few months. Binil's death has taken the toll to 10.

"We are working with the Russian authorities for early transportation of his mortal remains to India. We have also sought the early discharge and repatriation to India of the injured person," Jaiswal said.

October last year, Indian officials had said that 85 Indian nationals recruited by the Russian military had been discharged, and efforts were underway to secure the release of another 20 citizens. The Russian embassy in New Delhi confirmed that recruitment of foreign nationals including Indians into Russian forces was stopped in April 2024.

Recruitment of foreign nationals ceased: Russia

The Russian embassy in New Delhi had said the recruitment of foreign nationals including Indians into Russian armed forces was stopped in April 2024, and authorities were working to facilitate early discharge of those who had "voluntarily contracted for military service." Last October, Indian officials said 85 Indian nationals recruited by the Russian military had been discharged.

MHA approves 1,000 additional CRPF jawans for VIP security wing

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

GUARDING BIGWIGS
The VIP Security Wing is a specialised branch of the CRPF assigned to provide security to prominent individuals
WITH ADDITION OF AROUND 1,000 PERSONNEL, TOTAL STRENGTH OF STRENGTH OF CRPF VIP SECURITY WING IS 7,000
The Centre intends to withdraw NSG from security duty and assign protection of VIPs to CRPF
In May last year, the CRPF raised concerns about shortage of personnel for VIP security

> **Since the CRPF is tasked with protecting high-level VVIPs, we requested additional strength and the same has been accepted by the MHA. Now, the CRPF has seven battalions for VIP security** —CRPF official

IN view of the government's plans to gradually transfer certain protectees from the National Security Guard (NSG) to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned addition of another battalion (around 1,000 personnel) to the CRPF's VIP security wing, officials said on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, in a similar move, the MHA has also sanctioned two additional battalions for the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), over and above recently-approved one woman battalion for the force, officials said, adding that this would augment the force's capacity to take the total strength to two lakh.

According to a senior CRPF official, the MHA had issued an order sanctioning 1,000 more jawans for VIP security, taking the total strength of the specialised wing to 7,000, comprising both men and women.

The decision to sanction additional posts for the CRPF's VIP security wing was taken following the force raising concerns about the shortage of personnel for protection of VVIPs in May last year, following the government's intent to gradually withdraw NSG from protection duty, the official said.

Another officer said, "For long, the number of protectees under the CRPF remained around 70-80, but gradually its security coverage tripled, but the number of personnel remained the same. Since the CRPF is tasked with protecting high-level VVIPs, we requested additional strength and the same has been accepted by the MHA. Now the CRPF has seven battalions exclusively for VIP security."

Now, with the additional force strength, the CRPF would be able to alleviate the burden on the NSG, as plans to transfer certain protectees from the former to the latter has been at stages of implementation, he added.

The VIP Security Wing is a specialised branch of the CRPF assigned to provide security to individuals, including Union ministers, governors, chief ministers, politicians, government officials, spiritual leaders, business tycoons, and other prominent figures.

Nodal officers to redress farmers' issues: Shivraj

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

SC to hear plea on Dallewal health, MSP law today

As per the Supreme Court's causelist, a two-judge bench of the court, led by Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh, would hear on Wednesday a plea over Dallewal's health along with the farmer leader's plea for a direction to the Centre for implementing a proposal, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price on crops, made to the protesting farmers in 2021 after the farm laws were repealed. Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been on an indefinite fast for over 50 days.

UNION Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday appointed nodal officers to assess the farmers' agitation in Punjab and Haryana, work towards easing tensions, and prevent the situation from spreading to other states.

According to reports, the farmers organisations close to the RSS, during the weekly meeting, urged Singh to take measures to prevent the protest from spreading to other states.

A source stated, "There is a need for an official coordination team to oversee farmers affairs across the states". Currently, the senior officers limit themselves to their respective divisions and interact with state governments. Around 20 senior officials, including Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, advisers, and commissioners have been assigned responsibilities of one or two states each.

"These officers will regularly interact with state officers and address emerging Farmers' issues through respective schemes," said the source.

Some of the officers assigned the tasks are Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary, responsible for Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. However, Kidwai is now shifted to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Another Additional Secretary Maninder Kaur Dwivedi has been assigned the job to look after Gujarat and Odisha.

Muktanad Agarwal, IAS, assigned as nodal officer to look after Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu whereas Samuel P Kumar, joint secretary, is the nodal officer for Assam; Ruchika Gupta, adviser, for Telangana; C F Joseph, adviser, for Kerala. Another Joint Secretary level officer Priya Ranjan appointed as nodal officer for Uttarakhand and Himachal.

Chouhan has been introducing farmer-friendly schemes ahead of the annual Union budget. Earlier this month, he sought suggestions from state agriculture ministers.

Chouhan also announced that the Centre is working to ensure that farmers will not have to pay interest on storing their produce in warehouses.

Haryana khaps to back stir if unions unite

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

HARYANA khap panchayats have decided to back the farmers' protest in Punjab if all the farmers' unions come onto one platform after the January 18 meeting and announce a common minimum programme.

"Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, who are leading the protests, and Sanyukta Kisan Morcha need to come together and take on the Centre collectively by announcing a common minimum agenda. They should sort out their differences in their January 18 meeting. Then our committee of Haryana khap panchayats will meet on January 19 or 20 and decide on supporting the stir," said Satish Singh, coordinator of an 11-member committee of 102 khap panchayats.

"Khap panchayats will participate in the January 26 tractor march to strengthen the agitation," Singh added.

Haryana khap panchayats had played a key role in strengthening the farmers' stir at Delhi borders during 2020-21.

PM Museum society rejig: Shekhar Kapur, Irani new members

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML) society and its executive council have been reconstituted. Former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Nripendra Mishra has been reappointed for a five-year term as the chairperson of the council.

However, several new members have been nominated to the society. According to an order issued by the culture ministry, the newly added representatives are former union minister Smriti Irani, filmmaker and director of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Shekhar Kapur, former NITI Aayog Vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar and retired Army General Syed Ata Hasnain, who is one of India's most decorated military officers.

The reconstituted body will have 34 members instead of 29, said Ahmadabad based researcher historian Rizwan Kadri. He has been nominated to Prime Ministers' Museum & Library society.

The organisation is headed by the Prime Minister and has Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as its vice-president. Union ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaihnaw and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are also its members.

As per the memorandum of association and rules and regulations of the PMML society, the terms of the members nominated and executive council will be five years or until further order. The PMML society is an autonomous institution under the ministry of culture. It has four major constituents; Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, library, Centre for Contemporary Studies and Nehru Planetarium.

The other new members include: Sanjeev Sanyal, who is also the member of PM's Economic Advisory Council, educationist Chamu Krishna Shastry, Vasudev Kamath of Sanskar Bharti, and archaeologists KK Mohammad.

24 AKBAR ROAD

47 years of Congress' rise and fall

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

A view of the Congress headquarters at the 24, Akbar Rd in New Delhi | PTI

SAME time, same chill in the air. Delhi is witnessing a 'historic reoccurrence' of sorts on Wednesday; the Congress is moving to its new headquarters – Indira Gandhi Bhawan on Kotla Road.

Exactly 47 years ago, in January 1978, a devastated Indira Gandhi who was left with only a handful of loyalists following the drubbing after Emergency, shifted the base of the breakaway faction of the Congress to a government accommodation Type VII bungalow on Akbar Road.

In subsequent years, this British-era property saw the rise and fall of the grand old party from resurrection of Congress, Indira wresting power again, death of Sanjay Gandhi, and her killing to Rajiv Gandhi assuming the charge of Prime Minister's Office at very young age, his assassination, and Congress gradually regaining its ground in later years as it led alliance Governments in 1991, 2004 and 2009.

It has also seen the heyday of the Congress when it won 414 Lok Sabha seats in 1984-85 and also its decline when the party was restricted to just 44 seats in the lower house in 2014.

The property has a long history of about 100 years. Before the independence, member of Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's executive council Sir Reginald Maxwell had stayed here.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has also spent her early days as teenager in the bungalow in the 1960s as it was the residence of the Burmese ambassador. Her mother Daw Khin Kyi was appointed ambassador to India.

In his book – 24 Akbar Road: A short history of the people behind the rise and fall of the Congress – journalist and political commentator Rasheed Kidwai detailed how the bungalow was chosen to be made an iconic address in the national capital and the significant events that later unfolded within its confines.

According to the book, the Akbar Road property was allotted to Rajya Sabha MP of Congress G Venkataswamy from Andhra Pradesh who preferred to remain with Indira Gandhi after the 1977 elections while most of her colleagues left her.

Devoid of any resources and office space, Indira decided to operate her party office from the unkempt house.

Congress MP from Katihar in Bihar Tariq Anwar said following the split, the 24 Akbar Road bungalow became a temporary Congress office. "The office was supposed to be a provisional arrangement. Later, we settled there," he said. Anwar has worked with four generations of the Gandhi family.

Draft regulation 2025 designed to prioritise merit: UGC chief

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar has said the new draft regulation on recruiting assistant professors and vice-chancellors is designed to uphold merit and strengthen the governance of universities.

He said the 2025 regulations discontinue the Academic Performance Indicator based shortlisting and adopt a more qualitative approach. This new method will allow selection committees to assess candidates holistically based on their notable contributions and broader academic impact.

Key areas of assessment will include innovation in teaching methods, technology development, entrepreneurial contributions, development of digital learning, community engagement and societal contributions, promoting Indian languages and knowledge systems and sustainability practices.

These regulations also facilitate selection of faculty members from multi-disciplinary backgrounds. "The primary aim of these regulations is to broaden the horizon so that faculty members can excel in areas they are passionate about," he said, adding that draft regulations ensure that candidates with credentials are eligible.

CHAIRMAN SAYS:

The proposed draft suggests changing the composition of the selection committee for vice-chancellors. Why was this step taken? Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Kerala have contentions with governors over appointing V-Cs at state-run universities. Your comment?

UGC Draft Regulations 2025 are designed to uphold merit and strengthen the governance of universities, focusing on selecting the most competent individuals to lead institutions. Unlike the 2018 regulations, in the 2025 draft regulations, the committee composition is clearly defined to bring clarity and avoid any ambiguity. Why should there be any problem with that?

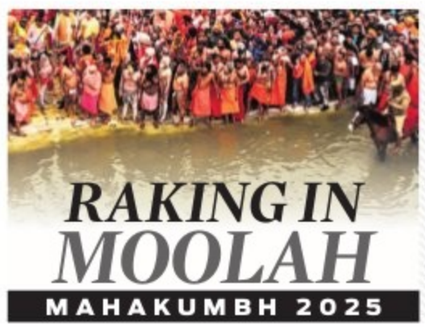
NATURAL CAVE

The natural cave at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was opened for devotees for Makar Sankranti celebrations on Tuesday, officials said.

50 ACRES OF ILLEGAL POPPY CULTIVATION DESTROYED IN MANIPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	26	15	Mumbai	30	23
Bhopal	24	16	Panaji	34	23
Jaipur	18	13	Patna	22	12
Amritsar	16	06	Lucknow	19	11
Chennai	28	26	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	26	15	Imphal	22	09
Srinagar	06	-06	Chandigarh	17	09

● 'INTERSECTIONAL JOURNEY' BETWEEN MAGH & KUMBH ● 'ECONOMY ROOTED IN CULTURAL TRADITIONS'



- TOTAL EXPECTED FOOTFALL: **OVER 40 CRORE**
- TOTAL EXPECTED REVENUE GENERATIONS: **₹2L CR-₹4L CR**
- TOTAL EXPECTED EXPENDITURE BY EACH VISITOR: **₹5,000-₹10,000** (AVG)
- EXPECTED BOOST TO NOMINAL/ REAL GDP: **1%**

SECTOR-WISE REVENUE GENERATION

- Food and Beverages: **₹20,000 cr**
- Religious items and offerings: **₹20,000 cr**
- Transportation/logistics: **₹10,000 cr**
- Tourism: **₹10,000 cr**
- Entertainment /Media: **₹10,000 cr**
- Health camps/ Medicines: **₹3,000 cr**
- Internet related services: **₹1,000 cr**
- Groceries: **₹4,000 cr**
- Edible oils: **₹1,000 cr**
- Veggies: **₹2,000 cr**
- Household items: **₹500 cr**
- Dairy: **₹4,000 cr**
- Hospitality: **₹2,500 cr**
- Boatmen: **₹50 cr**

IN 2019 TOTAL FOOTFALL: **24 CRORE** | TOTAL REVENUE GENERATION: **₹1.2L CR**

Faith stronger after holy dip, say bathers

PARAMITA GHOSH @ Prayagraj

COUSINS Shivanshu Dubey and Rakesh Tiwari from Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, are at the Sangam having done their Shahi Snan and feeling quite thrilled about it.

"Shahi Shan has been happening at the Mahakumbh for a long. What makes it special this year is that it happens during a rare celestial alignment that occurs only once every 144 years. I certainly won't be around for the next one," says Tiwari with a smile.

Dubey came out of the water with a "positive energy" surge. "It will carry me through as I prepare for the UPSC exams," he says. He ensured going for an early morning dip, at the hour of the 'manthan' (churning of the ocean) that yielded 'Amrit'.

> It's not about religion for me. The Kumbh happens when Jupiter aligns with the Sun and the Kumbh (the constellation of Aquarius), so you could say it's about the cosmos
>
> Rinku Kimari, advocate

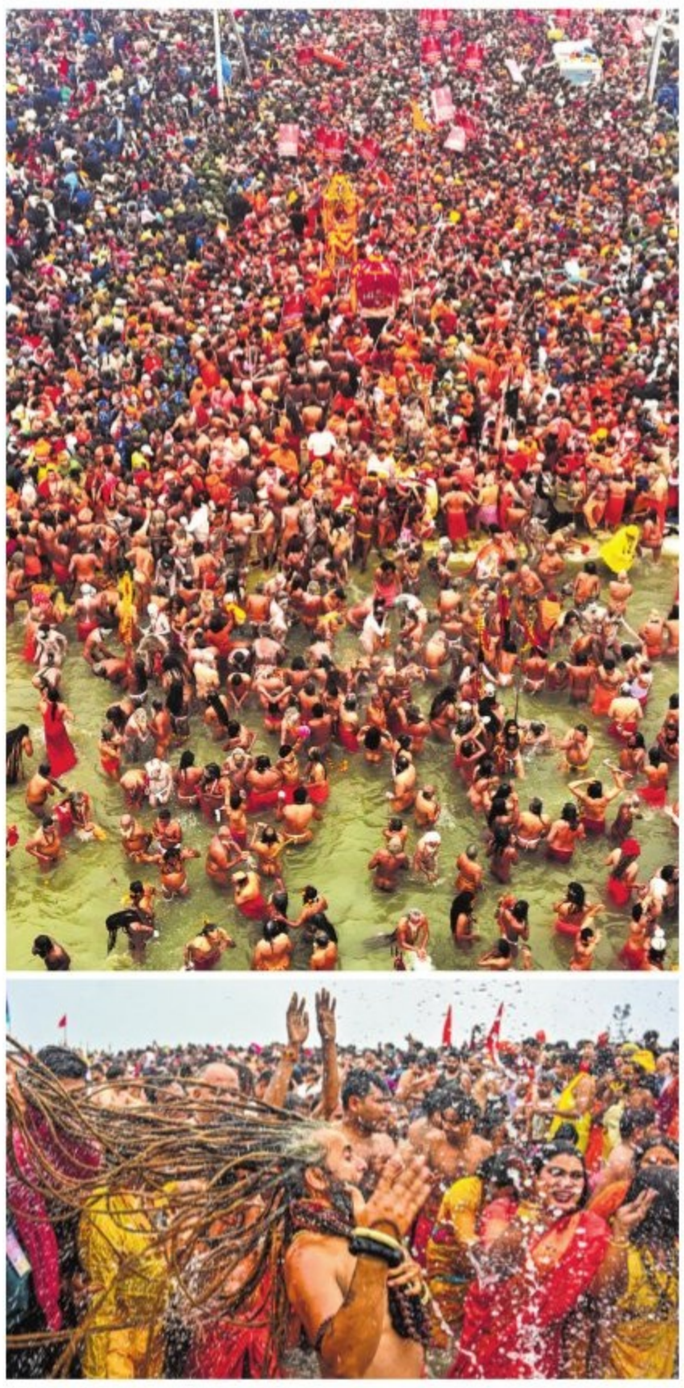
Whether for material or spiritual gains, or a combination of both, most who come for the Shahi Snan feel charged by the holy dip. Like the cousins from Ghazipur, residents of Prayagraj also do the dips during the annual Magh Mela. Heramb Chaturvedi, retired HOD of History at Allahabad University, says it is part of the "intersectional journey" between the Magh and the Kumbh.

Rinku Kimari, an advocate from Prayagraj, says it is part of her "family's culture". Her mother and her grandmother before her would never miss taking the holy dip. It connects her to her family, family traditions, and the traditions of the city to which she belongs.

She also imbibed her feelings for the event from her grandfather, who was into astronomy. "It's not about religion for me. The Kumbh happens when Jupiter aligns with the Sun and the Kumbh (the constellation of Aquarius), so you could say it's about the cosmos. It's also everyone's Shahi Snan. Half my neighbourhood goes and so do our neighbours," says Kumari, a resident of Alopibagh, a neighbourhood close to Sangam.

Vrijender Dubey, a retired athlete from Noida now in his eighties, says the movement of a mass of people towards water reminds him of the eternal flow of life. "We come, we go, and we have to keep going," he says.

Pramila Thakur of Pune is a first-timer at Prayagraj for the Shahi Snan. She is here with her family but cannot spot them for last two hours. But her eyes are steady as she says, "I'm not worried. If coming here has made me realise anything, it is this, that my faith is strong."



'Sadhus' and other devotees take a holy dip at the Sangam on Makar Sankranti festival during the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday | PTI

Northeastern twist at Maha Kumbh

For the first time, the Maha Kumbh came alive with vibrant traditions of Northeastern states, with the celebration of Bhogali Bihu taking centre stage. On Makar Sankranti, a special event was held at the Prag Jyotishpur camp of thenortheastern saints, where women devotees performed the traditional Bihu dance. The celebration began with the distribution of rice dishes, followed by Naam Kirtan at Namghar. Bhelaghar and the Meji were ceremonially burned on Tuesday morning.

Baba chases youtuber with tongs

At the Maha Kumbh, youtubers visit babas, ashrams, interview devotees and capture the mood at the mela. However, a youtuber had a tough time when a Baba Mahakal Giri chased him with a 'chimta' (tongs). He had to face the baba's wrath for asking questions when he was immersed in his sadhna. The guru jumped to his feet beating the Youtuber with Chimta. Leading the victim to get up and run to save himself from Baba's anger.

Maha Kumbh may generate ₹2-4L cr in 46-day-long mela

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Luknow

THE biggest congregation of humanity at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj may also rake in mind-boggling revenues, even contributing one percent to the national GDP.

In terms of numbers, industry and UP government sources peg Kumbh revenues at anywhere between ₹2-4 lakh crore.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath calculates it this way: Each of the 40 crore expected people spending ₹5,000 a head totals ₹2 lakh crore.

Some say the per capita spending may go up to ₹10,000, doubling the estimated revenue. The budget for the mega event is around ₹7,500 crore. The state's share came to ₹5,400 crore and the Centre's, ₹2,100 crore.

A Mumbai-based chartered accountant, economist, and Chairman of UP Development Forum, Pankaj Gandhi Jaiswal, explains the links between culture and economics.

He said, "India's economy is deeply rooted in cultural and festive traditions, driven by tenets of Sanatan economics. Unlike Western economic models, which often predict recessionary cycles, India's cultural and religious festivals—such as local hats, melas, and the Kumbh Mela—continuously rejuvenate economic activity. Historically, mobile fairs and markets have driven India's economic growth by integrating commerce, spirituality, and social interactions."

The state government says the average expenditure per person visiting Mahakumbh could rise to even ₹10,000, and the total economic impact could reach ₹4 lakh crore. It is also expected to boost the country's nominal and real GDP by over 1 percent.

Adityanath said the 2019 Kumbh contributed ₹1.2 lakh crore to the state's economy. Its footfall was around 24 crore, double than 2013. "Even with a 10 per cent adjustment for estimation risks, the Kumbh's contribution of ₹4 lakh crore to the economy remains extraordinary," says Jaiswal.

Yogi describes Mahakumbhnagar as the world's largest temporary city, which may accommodate devotees between 50 lakh and one crore at any given time.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
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Assam 4th in NY Times' must visit places

The state has been ranked 4th on The New York Times list of "52 Places to Visit in 2025". The New York Times report cited Assam's attractions – Charaideo Moidams, Kaziranga National Park, Rang Ghar, tea gardens etc. The one-horned rhino fame Kaziranga National Park and Charaideo Moidams have already made it to UNESCO World Heritage list. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X, "Visiting #AwesomeAssam won't just bring you closer to nature, it will bring you closer to your inner self. Still undecided on your visit to Assam? Check @nytimes' list of 52 Places to Go and pack your bags ASAP!."

Kaziranga marks Pori's b'day with celebration

The first birthday of Pori, the youngest member of Kaziranga's family of elephants, was celebrated in a grand manner recently. The day began with a general health checkup of the elephants by a team of vets, followed by a special treat of seasonal fruits – banana, sugarcane, oranges and apples. Kaziranga has 65 departmental elephants and 39 private elephants. The private elephants are engaged in tourism at the national park. "Pori was a bit shy and largely stood close to her watchful mother Bhadoi. Her playmate Gadapani, a 2-year-old male elephant calf, was all playful and curious about the fruit treats. The visitors enjoyed the celebration," an official statement said.

Public help sought to mitigate pothole menace

The Assam government wants to deal with the problem of potholes with cooperation from public. CM Sarma said the problem could be mitigated through an app with public support. He wants officials to develop an app so people can draw the government's attention to potholes for quick solution. "If you come across a pothole, you can take a photo and upload it on the app. The public works department will attend to it," Sarma said. He said he asked his officers to develop the app, adding initially, it will be for Guwahati, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar.

Disintegrated urn of journo found close to crematorium

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IN a shocking incident, the urn holding the ashes of the slain journalist Mukesh Chandrakar was found shattered and scattered on the ground, approximately fifty metres away from the cremation ground in Bijapur district, about 400 km south of Raipur.

Chandrakar was brutally murdered on January 1, after he reported corruption in the execution of the road construction contracts secured by his cousins in the Maoist-affected area of Bijapur. His body was found in a septic tank in the residential premises of contractor Suresh Chandrakar on January 3.

When Chandrakar's relatives reached Muktidham on Monday, they found the urn missing, following which they searched nearby areas and finally traced the broken urn with ashes lying scattered on the ground some 50 metres away, the police said.

The ashes was to be taken to Kaleshwaram (Telangana state) for asthi visarjan, a sacred ritual of immersing the ashes of departed persons into a holy river. "After Yukesh, the brother of Mukesh, lodged a complaint, the police began an investigation. The CCTV cameras installed nearby are being scanned to nab the culprit. The offenders will not be spared", a senior police officer added.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Tuesday announced an assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of the journalist and a building for mediapersons will also be constructed in his name in the district.

Fraud in Maiyan scheme: Aid for 8 going to 1 woman

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

MORE fraudulent cases in Maiyan Samman Yojana, Hement Soren government's flagship scheme for women, have come to light, and computer operators were found to be behind the irregularities.

Financial assistance given to eight women was found to be credited into the bank account of the wife of a computer operator in Kharaundi block of Jharkhand's Garhwa district. The amount released for six women was also found to be landing in the bank account of a man in Kupa panchayat of the district.

Upendar Yadav, husband of a woman beneficairy, has filed a complaint with the BDO against computer operator Navin Patel. Yadav said that instead of linking his wife's bank account, the computer operator has linked his wife's account with the scheme while filling up the form. "The amount released for my his wife, Savita Kumari, is being credited to the bank account of the computer operator's wife Resham Kumari. The forgery has been done deliberately by the computer operator. The money should be recovered from him," Yadav said.

Some women, who are receiving the assistance under the scheme, have said they have to pay half of the amount received to the computer operator as a commission. Kharondi BDO Ravindra Kumar said, "Action will be taken against those found guilty after a thorough investigation." Garhwa deputy commissioner Shekhar Jamuar said the matter has come to his knowledge and action will be taken against those found guilty. "We will investigate each case and those found guilty will not be spared," Jamuar said.

Similar irregularities were received from Kasmar block in Bokaro, where two computer operators were found to be receiving the released assistance in their bank accounts. An FIR has been lodged against one of them.

Under the scheme, all women aged between 21 and 50 years were getting ₹1,000 every month in their bank accounts through direct benefit transfer (DBT). Before the Assembly polls, the assistance was increased to ₹2500.

'Had to pay half of the amount to operator'

Some women, who are receiving the assistance under the scheme, have said they have to pay half of the amount received to the computer operator as a commission. Kharondi BDO Ravindra Kumar said, "Action will be taken against those found guilty after a thorough investigation."

Cutting-edge tech in U'khand local body elections, AI set to make campaign debut

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

MANY candidates contesting local body elections in Uttarakhand, scheduled for January 23, are harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to elevate their campaigns with data-driven insights. "Days of traditional campaigning, characterised by distribution of caps and handbills, are gone. We have entered the era of AI, where a voter can access the background of a candidate in less than 60 seconds," political analyst Jai Singh Rawat said.

Congress spokesperson Ashish Nautiyal, who is campaigning for his wife Radha Nautiyal, said, "Candidates are are using video calls not only to promote themselves but also to allow voters to access their voter slips with just a click."

Various agencies offer packages to choose. Once selected, the agency takes up the campaign responsibility.

Balraj Suri, involved in printing promotional materials, said, "BJP, Congress and independent candidates are utilising these services. In Dehradun, agencies are focused on marketing candidates. Their offerings range from booth kits to AI digital promotion and social media packages."

Drishti drone crashes off Guj coast during trials

MAYANK SINGH @@ New Delhi

THE Drishti 10 Starliner drone, manufactured at Adani Defence and Aerospace facility Hyderabad, on Tuesday crashed off the Porbandar coast in Gujarat during its pre- acceptance trials. It would have been inducted upon completing trials.

Sources confirmed the drone, also known as Hermes 900, that crashed was operated by the supplier while it crashed into the sea. "It has been recovered," a source said.

While each system costs more than ₹120 crore, "there won't be any financial implications for the Indian Navy as the system was not yet inducted," added the source.

These drones are being assembled under licence from Israel and are based on Hermes 900 Starliner manufactured in Israel by its firm Elbit Systems. The medium-altitude long-endurance drone is already in service with the Navy which inducted one last year. The Navy and the Army had ordered two such drones each.

On Makar Sankranti in Gujarat, Shah lays foundation for police infra projects

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

HOME Minister Amit Shah celebrated the festival of Makar Sankranti with residents of the Shantiniketan society in Ahmedabad's Memnagar area on Tuesday. He was joined in the festivities by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Later in the afternoon, the Home Minister laid the foundation stone for the state's largest police line and the Ghatlodia Police Station. Both facilities are set to be equipped with cutting-edge technology to enhance the city police system. CM Patel also participated in this significant ceremony.

The Ghatlodia Police Station building and 18 high-rise blocks, each spanning 13 floors, will be developed by the Gujarat State Police Housing Corporation Ltd. These towers are set to accommodate 920 police families, providing modern living spaces for those who serve on the frontlines of the state's security.

The expansive police line, to be constructed in Ahmedabad, will not only be the largest in the state but will also feature top-tier facilities aimed at enhancing the functioning of the city's police system. Among its many perks, the housing project will offer 2-BHK units (55 sq. m.) for police families.

Designed with modern living in mind, the new police line will include impressive amenities such as basement parking for 930 cars, two elevators, an open garden, a water harvesting system, a solar rooftop, and an electricity backup.

Moreover, 10 retail shops will be integrated into the complex, ensuring convenient access to essential goods like vegetables, milk, hair salons, ATMs, and a grain grinding mill. A future CPC canteen is also planned to serve the specific needs of the police families.

In addition to basic amenities like kitchens, attached bathrooms, and common toilets, the 18 towers will feature furnished accommodations to make life more comfortable for police personnel and their families. The most unique feature is the inclusion of a fully integrated police station within the largest police line, which will occupy two floors of one of the 18 blocks.

Amit Shah flies a kite during 'Makar Sankranti' celebrations in Ahmedabad | PTI

8 militants killed

Security forces in Pakistan kill 8 Talibani terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	4	-5	SNY	Los Angeles	22	5	SNY
Colombo	28	23	LR	Melbourne	26	12	LR
Dhaka	26	13	SNY	Moscow	2	-4	LS
Dubai	26	12	SNY	New York	1	-5	SNY
Houston	13	6	LR	Singapore	30	24	TDS
Istanbul	8	6	LR	Toronto	-3	-6	SNY
London	10	6	LC	Washington	1	-9	SNY

QATAR SAYS GAZA TRUCE TALKS IN 'FINAL STAGES'

Qatar, Egypt & US have stepped up ceasefire efforts to enable release of hostages held in Gaza since Hamas' Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel

DOHA

KEY mediator Qatar said negotiations for a Gaza truce and hostage release deal were in their "final stages" on Tuesday, adding that it was hopeful an agreement could be reached "very soon". Qatar, Egypt and the United States have stepped up efforts to broker a ceasefire to enable the release of hostages held in Gaza since Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on Israel. On Monday, US President Joe Biden said a deal was "on the brink" of being finalised, just days before the inauguration of successor Donald Trump.

On Tuesday, Qatar foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said the negotiations were in their "final stages". "We do believe that we are at the final stages... certainly we are hopeful that this would lead very soon to an agreement," Ansari said, adding "until there is an announcement... we shouldn't be over-excited".

"We have reached a point where the major issues that were preventing a deal from happening were addressed," he told a news conference. Hamas' attack, the deadliest in Israel's history, resulted in the deaths of 1,210 people, mostly civilians.

On that day, militants also took 251 people hostage, 94 of whom are still being held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead. Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed 46,645 people, a majority of them civilians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Sources close to the talks and Israeli media said the first phase of a deal would see 33 Israeli hostages released, while two Palestinian sources close to Hamas said Israel would release about 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange. An Israeli government official said that "several hundred terrorists will be released" as part of the first phase.

Hamas said it hoped for a "clear and comprehensive agreement", adding that it had held consultations with other Palestinian factions and informed them of the "progress made". Successive rounds of negotiations had failed to end the deadliest war in Gaza's history. *AFP*

A man walks with a jerrycan balanced on a bicycle through debris at the site of Israeli bombardment on a residential block in Jalaa Street in Gaza City on Tuesday | AFP

Blinken makes case for post-war reconstruction

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a case on Tuesday for a plan for post-war reconstruction and governance of Gaza. Blinken touted the proposal, which has been in the works for a year, and discussed the importance of ensuring its success after the Biden administration leaves office in a speech to Washington-based Atlantic Council. "We've a responsibility to ensure the strategic gains of the last 15 months endure and lay the foundation for a better future," Blinken said. "All too often, the Middle East, we've seen how the shoes of one dictator can be filled by another, or give way to conflict and chaos."

S Korean prez no-show on impeachment trial Day 1

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's Constitutional Court opened the impeachment trial of President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday over his failed martial law bid, but adjourned the first hearing after the suspended leader didn't show up.

Yoon's December 3 power grab plunged South Korea into its worst political crisis in decades, after he directed soldiers to storm parliament in an unsuccessful attempt to stop lawmakers voting down his suspension of civilian rule. He was impeached soon after and suspended from duty, but has gone to ground in his residence since, refusing summonses from investigators probing him on insurrection charges and using his presidential security team to resist arrest. Although his failure to attend — which his team have blamed on purported safety concerns — forced a procedural adjournment, the hearings will continue without Yoon, with the next set for Thursday.

The eight judges will decide mainly two issues: whether Yoon's martial law declaration was unconstitutional and whether it was illegal — either of which could prove grounds to uphold his impeachment. Six judges must vote in favour of Yoon's impeachment for his removal. *AFP*

Ukraine claims biggest aerial strike on Russian land

KYIV

UKRAINE carried out its largest aerial attack on Russian territory of the nearly three-year war overnight, Kyiv said on Tuesday, hitting factories and energy hubs hundreds of miles from the frontline. The Russian military accused Kyiv of using US and British-supplied missiles for one of the strikes and promised it would "not go unanswered".

The barrage forced schools in the Saratov region to close, while at least nine airports in central and western Russia temporarily halted traffic, according to Russian officials. Moscow and Kyiv have upped strikes on each other ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration next week, as both sides seek to gain the upper hand in potential negotiations aimed at settling the war.

"The Ukrainian Defence Forces carried out the most massive strike against the occupiers' military facilities, at a distance of 200 to 1,100 kilometres (125 to 700 miles) deep into the territory of the Russian Federation," Ukraine's General Staff said in a post on social media. Facilities "in the Bryansk, Saratov, Tula regions and the Republic of Tatarstan were hit," it added. Among the targets were a chemical factory that makes rocket fuel and ammunition for Russia's army, an oil depot near a Russian air base and an oil refinery. The governor of Russia's Saratov region, Roman Busargin, said the scale of the attack there was "massive". Schools in the cities of Saratov and Engels were holding classes online on Tuesday because of the attacks, he added. Firefighters had only the day before managed to put out a blaze at an oil depot in the city of Engels, which was hit by a Ukrainian drone strike on January 8. Kyiv's army said it had hit the same site again. *AFP*

Gold deposits worth PKR 700 bn discovered, claims Pak govt

LAHORE

PAKISTAN'S Punjab government on Tuesday claimed that they had discovered "massive gold deposits" worth over PKR 700 billion in the province. "We have discovered 2.8 million tola gold in the Attock district of Punjab," Punjab Minister for Mines and Minerals Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani told reporters here. He said the Geological Survey of Pakistan launched a study on the gold deposits in Attock last year and discovered a huge quantity of gold there.

"The worth of gold deposits is PKR 600-700 billion in the international market," he claimed.

He said the government has formed rules for auctioning the gold reserves, and the process will begin in a month. *PTI*

LA FACES NEW DANGER AS PERILOUS WINDS RAMP UP

LOS ANGELES

HOT, powerful winds Tuesday threatened to rekindle and whip up major fires that have devastated the hills and suburbs of Los Angeles, killing at last 24 people and changing the face of America's second biggest city forever.

A week after blazes erupted and spread uncontained, forecasters predicted "particularly dangerous" dry Santa Ana winds would spike the wildfire threat for already exhausted firefighters.

"Stay aware of your surroundings. Be ready to evacuate. Avoid anything that can spark a fire," the National Weather Service warned.

A large part of Southern California was under a Red Flag warning, indicating that intense dryness and furious winds would make conditions ripe for wildfire.

Part of Los Angeles County and much of neighboring Ventura County were in a "Particularly Dangerous Situation," according to the NWS, a designation that was also declared before last week's deadly blazes erupted.

Officials insisted they were poised, with Los Angeles city fire chief Kristin Crowley telling reporters a huge firefighting operation was well placed.

"I have strategically pre-positioned engine strike teams and task forces which are dedicated to rapid response for any new fire that breaks out," she said. The renewed danger comes with 24,000 acres (9,700 hectares) of the upmarket Pacific Palisades in ruins and 14,000 acres of the city of Altadena badly charred.

More than 90,000 evacuees are desperate to get back to their homes -- or even just to see if anything at all survived.

"My house is gone, I know that. I've seen pictures and all that's left is the chimney. But I need to see it by myself to believe it," Fred Busche told AFP.

Search teams using cadaver dogs have been scouring the rubble for days, with Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna saying he expected more victims would be unearthed. *AFP*

Rescuers bring out dead, survivors from SA mine, hundreds still trapped

SOUTH AFRICA

RESCUERS sent a cage-like structure down into one of South Africa's deepest gold mines on Tuesday to bring out survivors among hundreds of miners who were working illegally in an abandoned shaft and have been trapped for months. More than 100 are believed to have died of starvation or dehydration.

Police said at least 24 bodies and 37 survivors have been brought out of the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine since Friday, but civic organisations and groups representing the miners say over 500 are still believed to be underground, many of them ill and starving.

Police said they are uncertain how many remain, but it is likely to be hundreds. The mine near the town of Stilfontein, southwest of Johannesburg, has been the scene of a tense standoff between police, miners and members of the local community since November, when authorities first launched an operation to try and force the miners out. Relatives of the miners say some of them have been underground since July.

Authorities say the miners are able to come out and are refusing, but that has been disputed by rights groups and activists. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Kate Middleton says her cancer is in remission

London: Britain's Princess of Wales Kate Middleton said that her cancer is in remission Tuesday, following a visit to hospital where she received treatment earlier this year. In a statement on social media, the princess offered her heartfelt thanks to those who helped her and her husband Prince William.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients intend purchasing the Schedule Property from the children of Late N. Ramakrishna i.e., (1) Smt. Lakshmi R. W/o. R Muralidhar, (2) Sri. Varaha Venkatagiri R. S/o. Late N. Ramakrishna and (3) Sri. Gururaj R. S/o. Late N.Ramakrishna. Any person/s having any claim/s over the Schedule Property or any objection for the purchase of the Schedule Property or any portion thereof by our clients may lodge his/her/their claim/s and objection/s to the undersigned with documentary proof **within 15 days** from today, failing which, it will be deemed that there are no claim/s or the objection/sand/or claim/s if any, has/have been given up and our clients will proceed ahead with the transaction of purchasing the Schedule Property as being free from any or all claim/s,right/s, encumbrance/s etc.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No.1: All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearingSy.No.161/3 measuring 0.39 Acres (Thirty-Nine cents) situated at Dhanagere Village, Paalya Hobli, Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajnagar District, and together bounded on the:
East by : Property in Sy.No.164/A;
West by : Passage/Pathway;
North by : Property in Sy.No.160/1 and 161/6;
South by : Property in Sy.No.161/4.

ITEM No.2: All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.No.161/4 measuring 0.17 Acres (Seventeen cents)situated at Dhanagere Village, Paalya Hobli, Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajnagar District, and together bounded on the:
East by : Property in Sy.No.164/A;
West by : Passage/Pathway;
North by : Property in Sy.No.161/3;
South by : Property in Sy.No.161/5.

ITEM No.3: All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearingSy.No.161/5 measuring 0.90 Acres (Ninety cents), situated at Dhanagere Village, Paalya Hobli,Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajnagar District, and together bounded on the:
East by : Property in Sy.No.164/A, 164/1 and 165/2;
West by : Passage/Pathway;
North by : Property in Sy.No.161/4;
South by : Property in Sy.No.167.

ITEM No.4: All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing old Sy.No.164/B new Sy.No.164/1 measuring 0-69.75 Acres (Sixty-Nine point Seven-Five cents) situated at Dhanagere Village, Paalya Hobli,Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajnagar District, and together bounded on the:
East by : Kollegala – Bengaluru Main Road;
West by : Property in Sy.No.161/5;
North by : Property in Sy.No.164/A;
South by : Property in Sy.No.165/2.

ITEM No.5: All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing old Sy.No.165/A, new Sy.No.165/2 measuring 0.60 Acres (Sixty cents)situated at Dhanagere Village, Paalya Hobli, Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajnagar District, and together bounded on the:
East by : Kollegala – Bengaluru Main Road;
West by : Property in Sy.No.161/5;
North by : Property in Sy.No.164/1;
South by : Property in Sy.No.165/1.

SIDDHARTHA D.K., Advocate
M/s. DHVANI LAW
No.70, 1st Floor, 'Srinidhi Apartments', Vanivilas Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560 004. Mob: 9916800411.
Date: 14.01.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that our Client is desirous to purchase properties situated at Chunchegowda Hosahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District in all measuring 3 Acres 11 guntas, (more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and referred to as 'Schedule Property'), from its various Owners.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim on or against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such sale should lodge their objections and/or claims in writing along with documentary evidence for asserting his / her / their right/s with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, with the undersigned within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which period our Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	New Sy.No.	Old Sy.No.	Extent		Kharab	Owner's Name	Boundaries			
			Acres	Guntas	Guntas		East	West	North	South
1	58/3	Portion of 58/3	-	20	2	S. Ananda	Land bearing Sy.No.58/6	Land bearing Sy.No.50	Government Road	Land bearing Sy.No.58/5
2	58/6	Portion of 58/3	1	-	4	Raghu D K	Land bearing Sy.No. 58/7	Land bearing Sy.No. 58/3	Government Road	Land bearing Sy.No.58/4
3	58/7	Portion of 58/3	1	20	5	Gopal K	Land bearing Sy.No. 58/1	Land bearing Sy.No. 58/6	Government Road	Land bearing Sy.No. 58/4
Total			3 Acres 11 guntas							

All situated at Chunchegowda Hosahalli Village, DoddabelavangalaHobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. Bangalore Rural District.

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2, Lavelle Road, Bangalore 560001. Tel: 91-(0)80-40160000, E-Mail: jrego@almtlegal.com

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender No. : SER-OL-HQ-TR-W-01-25-1. Dy. Chief Engineer/Line, South Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700043, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Open E-Tender for the following work : **Name of the work:** Ultrasonic Testing of Rails including through testing of Rails and welds with contractor's own B-Scan Machines equipped with 9 channels SRT/DRT and two extra 37 degree probes and Operators on nominated routes over South Eastern Railway including hand probing (flange testing) of welds as per Indian Railway Standard Specification for Ultrasonic Testing of Rails/Welds, Revised-2020 (Document No. T-53) and Manual for Ultrasonic testing of Rails and Welds, Revised 2022 (with latest amendment) issued by RDSO. **Approx. Cost of the Work :** ₹ 21,42,65,110.85. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 12,21,300/-. **Date and time of Closing of Tender :** 07.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **Website particulars :** Complete details for e-tendering and online participation for the above work is on website **www.ireps.gov.in** (PR-1011)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

(Survey & Construction)

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-II, North-Western Railway, Jodhpur through for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders **(Open Tender - Two packet system)** for the following work :- **1 Tender No. : DY CE/C-II-JU-T-10-LUNI-SMR-BLDI 2. Name of the work with its location :** Laying and linking of Broad Gauge main Line, including points and crossings, spreading of Ballast, tamping of track, transportation of P.Way Materials and other ancillary works from Bishangarh (Excluding) Km 49.000 to Marwar Kori (Including) Km 133.000 in connection with LUNI-SMR-BLDI doubling project of North Western Railway **3. Approx. cost of work :** Rs. 34,28,97,100.90 **4. Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 18,64,500.00 **5. Tender Closing date & time :** 13.02.2025 upto15.00 hrs **6. Detail of particular, where e-tender can be seen & filled up : www.ireps.gov.in 7. Official email address : dycec2jodhpur@gmail.com**

48-CR/25

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Chemm Finance Ltd.

No.19, KCD Complex, 3rd Cross, Mission Road, Bangalore-27. Tel: 22221066, 22221115

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The borrowers, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on below mentioned dates. The auction is of the gold ornaments of defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of their loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. For further details please contact the Branch Manager

01.02.2025. CHINTAMANI: CND9097, 9138, 9174, 9177, 9179, 9189, 9208, 9254, 9255, 9256, 9267,9 281, 9319, 9347, 9349, 9366, 9372, 9389, 9437, 9483, 9507, 9526, 9537, 9561, 9566, 9569, 9909. **COLLEGE ROAD:** DBR708, 715, 716, 717. **MANDYA:** MDY 9196, 9455, 9877, 10401. **MARATHAHALLI:** MRT 7098, 7135, 7160, 7162, 7198, 7252, 7454. **YALAHANKHA:** YHA353. **03.02.2025. HOSKOTE:** HKT11574, 11583, 11589, 11606, 11641, 11680, 11681, 11682, 11708, 11717, 11718, 11735, 11774, 11805, 11847, 11859, 11902, 11919, 11956, 11957, 11984, 11985, 11996, 12025, 12098, 12133, 12140, 12145, 12160, 12163, 12216, 12218, 12225, 12227, 12231, 12277, 12294. **RAMANAGAR:** RMN 366, 406, 479. **BHATKAL:** BTK 1148, 1206, 1413. **04.02.2025. DASARAHALLI:** DSR 6207, 6220, 6224, 6226, 6227, 6250, 6354, 6358, 6423, 6431. **MISSION ROAD:** CFL12861, 12862, 12875, 12881, 12908, 12928, 12955, 12958, 12961, 12973, 12974, 12975, 12989, 13008, 13047, 13049, 13292, 13304, 13305, 13306. **MANGALORE:** MNG2946. **T. NARASIPURA:** TNP 163, 164, 168, 330, 370. **05.02.2025. BOMMANAHALLI:** BMH109, 110, 128. **DODDABALLAPUR:** DBP12589, 12596, 12621, 12622, 12634, 12646, 12657, 12665, 12667, 12695, 12739, 12743, 12744, 12766, 12770, 12777, 12782, 12787, 12790, 12791, 12820, 12831, 12888, 12974, 12975, 12983, 12994, 12999, 13010, 13013, 13043, 13077, 13080, 13096, 13102, 13106, 13130, 13136, 13196, 13202, 13217, 13219, 13225, 13227, 13232, 13234, 13254, 13259, 13260, 13266, 13268, 13272, 13284, 13285, 13291. **K.R.PURAM:** K RP8708, 8728, 8730, 8040, 8879, 8889, 8899, 8902, 8936, 8955, 8965, 9006, 9015, 9079, 9130, 9141, 9144, 9161, 9177, 9187, 9189, 9192, 9195, 8653, 9980, 10014, 10043, 9797, 9868. **06.02.2025 BASAVANAGAR:** BSV3026, 3058, 3135, 3158, 3194, 3545. **CHAMARAJANAGAR:** CMR 11270, 11298, 11499, , 11566, 11592, 11632, 11636, 11679, 11683, 11801, 11808, 11865, 11882, 11898, 11911, 12011, 12019, 12031, 12035, 12036, 12037, 12038, 12047, 12195, 13035, 13277, 13602. **MALUR:** MLR 9827, 9903, 9920, 10276, 10307, 10391. **THIPPASANDRA:** TIP5289, 5343, 5400, 5403, 5410, 5418, 5475, 5476, 5501. **CHIKKABALLAPUR:** CHK 3689, 3705, 3706, 3709, 3802, 3840, 3855, **SUNKADAKATTE :** SKT47, 55, 71, 77, 95, 96, 100, 106, 109, 112, 117, 121,122, 124, 126, 170, 180, 193, 212, 213, 379, 402, 403, 427, 451, 475, 478, 482, 484, 495, 504, 506, 508, 513, 536, 540, 542, 543. **HUBLI :** HBL 2637, 2658, 2682, 2683, 2695, 2706, 3005, 3043, 3045. **TUMKUR:** TMK 3904, 3905, 4209, 4244, 4364, 4408. **MYSORE :** MYS4650, 4957, 4977.

THE KARNATAKA STATE CO-OPERATIVE APEX BANK LTD.

No.1, 'UTHUNGA', Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018.
Phone: 080-26983700, 26983722, 22976600, 22976693
E-mail: recoverycell@karnatakaapex.com

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Whereas, the Bank has issued notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (4) of the Act, the **Authorised Officer, The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd, Bengaluru - 560018** has taken possession of the mortgaged properties including those more fully described hereunder, and the Bank has decided to sell the below mentioned property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act 2002. read with the relevant Rules 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Description of Property and Boundaries & Measurement	Reserve Price and EMD Amount	Balance Outstanding Amount to be paid to Bank	Date & Time of Opening Tender & Place of Auction
1	**Borrowers:** **1) Sri Narayanachar. B.C. S/o. Sri Chikkannaiahchar,** **2) Sri Dinesha. B.N. S/o. Sri Narayanachar. B.C.,** Admin-Manager, No.637, EWS 2nd Stage, 12th 'B' Main, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru - 560064. **Both are R/at:** No.185, Near Subramanya Swamy Temple, Bagaluru Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru - 562149. **Guarantor: Sri Chandrashekar. S.M., S/o. Sri Suresh. M.** No. 47/48, Doddakallasandra, Kanakapura Main Road, Bengaluru - 560062. **Also at:** No. 481, 1st Block, 18th Cross, Narayana Nagara, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru - 560062.	All that piece and parcel of the property in respect of residential old Khanesumari No. 85 then 158/132/132, presently E-Khatha Property No. 165/132, ID No.150200201200300159, measuring East to West 11.58 mtrs (38 feet) and North to South 5.18 Mtrs (17 feet), totally measuring **60.01 Sq. Meters (646 Sq. feet)** and including building situated at Bagalur Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and bounded on: **East by :** Property of Bestara Narasimhaiah, **West by :** Road, **North by :** House of Chikka Narasimhaiah, **South by :** Road.	**Rs. 53,05,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Five Thousand Only) **EMD: Rs. 5,30,500/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand and Five Hundred Only) (10% of the Reserve Price)	**Rs. 65,66,370/-** (Rupees Sixty Five Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Only) **as on 31-12-2024**	**20-02-2025 at 11.30 AM No.1, "UTHUNGA", Pampa Mahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018**

Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale:- 1) The Tender form can be collected from **The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., No. 1, "UTHUNGA", Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018. (Phone: 080-26983700 / 26983722 / 22976600 / 22976693)** on all working days during office hours. **2)** The intending bidders should submit their bids in the prescribed tender form in closed cover along with EMD being 10% of the Reserve Price by means of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order drawn in favour of **The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., Bengaluru** - payable at Bengaluru. The Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order shall be drawn after the date of publication of this Auction Sale Notice. **3)** Tenders not in the prescribed format will not be accepted. The tender along with the EMD shall be submitted at **The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., Bengaluru** latest by **19-02-2025 before 5.00 PM.** Tender without EMD shall be summarily rejected. **4)** The property **"WILL NOT"** be sold below the reserve price. **5)** In case the bidder is not successful the EMD amount will be refunded without interest. **6)** The EMD amount shall be liable for forfeiture without prior notice, if the bidder including successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Auction Sale. **7)** The sealed tenders will be opened by the Authorised Officer in the presence of the available / attending bidders **on 20-02-2025 at 11.30 AM. 8)** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the Sale Price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, by Demand Draft / Pay Order / RTGS / NEFT and the balance of the Sale Price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property will be put for re-auction. **9)** The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues / taxes / charges / property tax / E B charges / water charges / conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws. **10)** The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all of the tender or / bid / offer and / or adjourn / postpone / cancel the Auction Sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify any of all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice. **11)** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. **12)** The property can be inspected by the intending bidders **between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM** at their expenses at the address mentioned in the Schedule. **13)** The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION".** The intending bidder shall satisfy them self about the title, ownership, statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property.

For further details the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer, The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., No. 1, "UTHUNGA", Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018 for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of property (Phone No: 080-26983700 / 26983722 / 22976600 / 22976693) E-Mail ID: recoverycell@karnatakaapex.com

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 13-01-2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer
The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd.,

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MARKETS

PSU bank stocks surge 20% amid speculation over stake sale

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PUBLIC sector bank stocks were in high demand in the final hour of trading hour of Tuesday amid speculations of stake sale by the central government.

Shares of five lenders - Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), UCO Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) – surged in double-digit figures on news that the Centre has approved a fundraising plan via the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route.

The fundraising, as per a report, will be executed in small tranches beginning in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2024-2025 (Q4 FY25).

At the end of the December 2024 quarter, the government held a 79.6% stake in BoM, 98.25% stake in PSB, 96.38% stake in IOB, 95.39% stake in UCO Bank and 93.08% stake in Central Bank.

The stake sale is likely to be part of the exercise to meet the minimum public shareholding (MPS) norm. As per existing norms, all listed companies must maintain an MPS of 25%.

The government had previously extended the deadline for the MPS norm for central public sector enterprises and public sector financial institutions till August 2026.

Central Bank shares soared 20% on Tuesday to hit its upper circuit level of Rs 56.24. IOB shares settled 19.56% higher at Rs 54.34 while UCO, PSB and BoM shares surged 18%, 14.67% and 12.26%, respectively. The Nifty PSU Bank index moved higher by 4.20%. Domestic equity market benchmarks - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 - snapped their 4-day losing streak on Tuesday. The 30-share Sensex closed 169.62 points, or 0.22%, higher at 76,499.63 while the Nifty50 gained 90.10 points, or 0.39% to settle at 23,176.05.

Reports estimate brands will spend ₹1,800-₹2,000 cr on ads during the event

Brands ride the spiritual tide at Maha Kumbh

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

FROM Reliance to Coca-Cola, major brands are capitalising on the Maha Kumbh wave as the 45-day mega event in Prayagraj is expected to draw over 40 crore people, making it the largest gathering in the world.

Industry reports estimate that brands will spend between ₹1,800 crore and ₹2,000 crore on advertising during the event. According to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Maha Kumbh 2025 is projected to contribute nearly Rs 1.2 lakh crore to Uttar Pradesh's economy.

Government figures indicate that if on average, attendees spend ₹5,000, it would generate ₹2 lakh crore in trade revenues. This figure may go up with the average spending for 40 crore devotees go up.

To grab eyeballs at such a mega-event, top FMCG and retail players have come out with unique campaigns. Coca-Cola India said it is launching Maha Kumbh special edition packaging for select beverages, a tribute to India's rich cultural traditions. The exclusive designs bring a local cultural touch to its products, creating memorable keepsakes. In addition, the company's on-ground presence is crafted with consumer convenience and delight in mind.

Greishma Singh, Vice President of Marketing, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia, "We will be pairing our diverse portfolio of beverages with local foods and flavours and bringing to life immersive experiences to make Maha Kumbh even more memorable for all who visit."

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) announced its partnership with Maha Kumbh Prayagraj 2025. RCPL will provide essential refreshments to keep pilgrims hydrated and energised. To aid navigation across the sprawling event, the company will install easy-to-read signage and directional boards. Additionally, the flagship beverage brand, Campa, will host a serene Campa Ashram, offering a safe space for rest and rejuvenation.

Eveready Industries, the country's leading flashlight and battery manufacturer, said that they would be equipping police personnel deputed for the grand duo-decennial occasion with 5000 Eveready Siren torches, featuring a powerful safety alarm, to help maintain order.

'BSNL call drop issue to be fixed by Feb'

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

STATE-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working aggressively to resolve call drops, call mute issues, and other calling-related problems on its network.

As per a senior BSNL official, all such issues will be addressed by next month (February 2024), after which the telecom service provider expects to reduce customer churn caused by poor network quality.

"We are aware that many customers leave BSNL due to poor call quality and frequent call drops. However, we are taking aggressive steps to resolve these issues, and I am confident that by next month, these concerns will be a thing of the past," said the official.

Following the tariff hikes by private telcos such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea, many subscribers have switched to BSNL. However, the migration has slowed recently due to customer dissatisfaction with BSNL's network. By July 2024, only 0.31 million users left BSNL. This number further dropped to 0.26 million in August, 0.28 million in September and rose to 0.51 million in October 2024.

TRAI data supports the claim of poor network quality. Among the four major telcos, BSNL has the worst connectivity. For instance, call drop rates for MTNL were found to be higher at 7.23%, while other providers, including RJIL, had rates below 0.25% in Delhi.

The official further revealed that BSNL is working on a technology to prevent fraudulent calls on its network. He claimed this technology will be superior to that of private telecom providers due to BSNL's indigenous network.

"We are developing a solution that will prevent fraudulent calls on our network. I can assure you it will be better than what private telecom companies offer, as we are implementing it on our indigenous network," said the official.

Regarding the rollout of 4G services, the official confirmed that BSNL plans to install 100,000 4G towers by March 2024. A formal commercial launch of 4G services is expected in the coming months, though the network is already operational in several areas on a pilot basis. It's worth noting that BSNL is the only major telecom service provider in India that is yet to launch a nationwide 4G or 5G network. Meanwhile, competitors such as Jio and Airtel have already launched 5G services across India, and Vodafone Idea has a comprehensive 4G network in place, with plans to introduce 5G services soon.

India cuts coal imports by 3.1% on rise in output

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE country's coal imports fell by 3.1% to 149.39 million tonne (MT) during April-December 2024 compared to 154.17 MT during the same period last year. The non-regulated sector (excluding the power sector) experienced a more significant decline, with imports falling by 8.8% year-on-year.

Despite a 3.87% growth in coal-based power generation from April to October 2024 as against the same period in the previous year, imports for blending by thermal power plants saw a sharp fall of 19.5%. This reduction underscores India's ongoing efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in production and cut reliance on imports. There was a notable increase in imports for the power sector, mainly from imported coal-based power plants (designed for imported coal), which rose by 38.4%, reaching 30.04 MT, up from 21.71 MT the previous year.

On the production front, coal output grew by 6.04%, rising to 537.57 MT during the April-October 2024 period, compared to 506.93 MT in the same period of FY24. This increase highlights the government's targeted efforts to enhance coal production and optimize its utilisation within the country.

ASIANOMICS

CHINA

DEC EXPORTS UP 10.7%, BEATING ESTIMATES

China's exports grew at a faster pace than expected in December, as factories rushed to fill orders to beat higher tariffs that US President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose once he takes office. Exports rose 10.7% from a year earlier. Economists had forecast they would grow about 7%. Imports rose 1% year-on-year. Analysts had expected them to shrink about 1.5%. With exports outpacing imports, China's trade surplus grew to $104.84 billion. Trump has pledged to raise tariffs on Chinese goods and close some loopholes that exporters now use to sell their products more cheaply in the U.S. If enacted, his plans would likely raise prices in America and squeeze sales and profit margins for Chinese exporters. China's exports are likely to remain strong in the near-term, said Zichun Huang of Capital Economics, as businesses try to 'front-run' potentially higher tariffs.

JAPAN

MAY HIKE INTEREST RATE NEXT WEEK

The Bank of Japan Deputy Governor Ryozo Himino said BOJ will debate whether to raise interest rates next week, as prospects of sustained wage gains heighten and the US policy outlook becomes clearer in President-elect Donald Trump's inaugural address. In a speech to business leaders in the city of Yokohama, Himino said on Tuesday it would "not be normal" for real interest rates to remain negative once Japan had overcome shocks and factors that caused deflation. Various surveys and reports from the central bank's regional branches had heightened hopes that wage growth would remain strong this year, he said. Himino also said the US economy was likely to remain strong for the time being, and the "broad direction" of US economic policy would likely become clear in Trump's inaugural address on Jan 20.

THAILAND

LEGALISES CASINOS TO BOOST TOURISM, ECONOMY

Thailand on Monday legalised casinos to give boost to tourism and address the sluggish economy. The Cabinet approved a draft bill giving casinos legal status. Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said that the bill will help attract more investments and solve issues of illegal gambling. The current government has pledged to improve the economic conditions of the country, which has not been in good shape recently. The draft bill says that a casino will be allowed to operate within a complex housing other businesses as well, including a hotel, convention hall, mall, or theme park. Those younger than 20 years old will not be able to access the casinos, which will be open to foreigners for free, but Thai citizens must pay 5,000 baht ($148) for an entrance fee, as per the draft.

NBFC's auto loan growth to fall to 16% in FY25

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE moderating growth momentum and the bank funding curbs will slow down growth of non-banks' vehicle finance to 15-16% this fiscal and the next to touch ₹9.4 lakh crore by March 2026. In FY24, the loan growth was at a high of 21%.

The rising demand for used cars and premiumisation amid steady asset sales in commercial vehicles, cars and utility vehicles spaces, will support vehicle finance growth, Crisil Ratings said in a note on Tuesday.

Between fiscals 2019 and 2024, the AUM has more than doubled from ₹4 lakh crore to over ₹8 lakh crore and is likely to touch ₹9 lakh crore this fiscal. As an asset class, vehicle financing is cyclical and susceptible to macroeconomic factors such as economic growth and quality of the monsoon. On the other hand, non-bank vehicle financiers continue to face intense competition from banks in new vehicle financing as a result they have been focusing more on used-vehicle financing.

IT hardware PLI scheme generated output worth ₹10,015 cr

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT Hardware and its 2.0 version have collectively generated a total production value of ₹10,014.72 crore as of December 2024.

As per the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the schemes, which incentivise the production of electronic items like smartphones, laptops, personal computers and desktops, have attracted ₹522.17 crore in investment and created 3,879 direct jobs so far.

Building on the success of the scheme for mobile phones, the government approved the PLI scheme 2.0 for IT hardware on May 17, 2023. This expanded scheme supports the manufacturing of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers, and ultra-small form factor devices in India. A total of 27 IT hardware manufacturers, including leading brands like Acer, Asus, Dell, HP, and Lenovo, have been approved under the scheme.

The government's goal with PLI scheme 2.0 for IT hardware is to strengthen India's manufacturing ecosystem. The scheme encourages localisation of components and sub-assemblies, develops the supply chain, and promotes semiconductor design, IC manufacturing and packaging. Companies under the scheme receive an average incentive of about 5% on net incremental sales of goods produced in India. This incentive is available for six years, based on the companies' incremental sales and investment targets.

The scheme for smartphones has been especially successful, helping the country become the world's second-largest manufacturer of smartphones. As per government data, mobile phones worth ₹4.10 lakh crore were produced in India, contributing significantly to exports. IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has stated that India aims to reach $20 billion in smartphone exports.

Scheme attracts ₹522.17 crore in investment so far

The production linked incentive schemes, which incentivise the production of electronic items like smartphones, laptops, personal computers and desktops, have attracted ₹522.17 crore in investment and created 3,879 direct jobs so far

Family feud between Baba Kalyani, sister for Hikal stake escalates

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE family feud between the Pune-based Kayani group led by Baba Kalyani and his sister Sugandha Hiremath who controls majority in Hikal has taken a murky turn.

The Baba faction shared a letter that the late N Vaghul, ex-head of ICICI, wrote to them on the disputes over the ownership of Hikal shares between Sugandha's husband Jai Hiremath and Surajmukhi Investment & Finance, an erstwhile subsidiary of Kalyani Steels.

Baba, the patriarch of the diversified Kalyani group led by its flagship Bharat Forge, and his sister Sugandha along her husband Jai, are embroiled in a legal battle over the ownership of Hikal (matters are pending in the Bombay High Court and a civil court in Pune). The filing to the exchanges by the Kalyani group firm Kalayni Investment says it owns close to 34% of the paid-up equity of Hikal.

Kalyani Investments, a promoter entity, informed the exchanges that the disclosures made earlier on Monday by Hikal based on the letter dated January 10, 2025, of Sugandha and Jai is incorrect. Kalyani Investment and Bharat Forge Investment hold 31.36% and 2.64% of Hikal shares, respectively, according to the exchange filing.

"We are one of the parties to the suit filed by the Hirematha in March 2023 before the Bombay HC and are privy to the pleadings and documents relied upon by all parties. In this regard, we made requisite disclosure on March 24, 2023, clarifying our position with regard to our shareholding in Hikal. We hold shares in Hikal in its own right," Kalyani Investments said in an exchang filing, which said it's not party to any "purported" family settlement/arrangement.

"The alleged claim made by the Hirematha in connection with Hikal shareholding by us is sub-judice and no reliefs have been granted so far by the HC to the Hirematha in this matter," the statement said. The Baba-owned company said the Hirematha have suppressed a letter by late Vaghul dated June 16, 2023, addressed to both Baba and Sugandha.

Kalayni Investment says it owns 34% Hikal stake

The filing to exchanges by Kalayni Investment says it owns 34% of paid-up equity of Hikal. Kalyani Investments, a promoter entity, informed exchanges the disclosures made earlier on Monday by Hikal based on the letter dated Jan 10, 2025, of Sugandha and Jai is incorrect. Kalyani Investment and Bharat Forge Investment hold 31.36% and 2.64% of Hikal shares, respectively

PMLA case: ED challenges Unitech promoters' bail

SHEKHAR SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has approached the Delhi High Court, contesting the bail granted to former Unitech promoters in a money laundering case. Justice Jasmeet Singh, after initial submissions, issued a notice on Tuesday, seeking responses from the accused, Sanjay and Ajay Chandra.

The case stems from allegations that the Chandras misappropriated funds collected from homebuyers. Initially booked by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police, the ED later filed a money laundering case, accusing the Chandras of siphoning off money intended for real estate projects.

On June 7, 2024, Additional Sessions Judge Dheeraj Mor granted bail to the Chandras, citing their prolonged pre-trial detention.

The defense highlighted that several Unitech flats were delivered between 2017 and 2020 and noted that ₹850 crore had been deposited with the Supreme Court, with substantial amounts refunded to homebuyers.

However, the ED's counsel, Vivek Gurnani, argued that the bail order misapplied Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

He contended that the decision contradicted the Supreme Court's principles in the Vijay Madanlal case, which set strict guidelines for granting bail in money laundering cases.

The High Court has scheduled the next hearing for March 26, as the ED seeks to overturn the bail order.

'PMLA sec 45 misapplied'

ED counsel, Vivek Gurnani, argued that the bail order misapplied Section 45 of PMLA. He contended that the decision contradicted the Supreme Court's principles in Vijay Madanlal case, which set strict guidelines for granting bail in money laundering cases

Demographic shift to slow down India's economic growth: Report

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

A McKinsey report on demographics has warned that India has only 33 years, a little over one generation, until it is as 'old' as advanced economies are today. It underscores the need for India to get rich before it gets old. The report highlights that despite high progress, India's GDP per capita is just 18% of the high-income threshold.

As per the report, India's total fertility rate is 1.98 children per woman, which is below the replacement rate of 2.1. As per a UN projection, India's population will peak at 1.7 billion in 2061 and decline thereafter. Under current projections, India will have more than twice as many people as China by the end of the century.

The report states the shift in Indian demography will result in slower economic growth. It says that from 1997 to 2023, India's beneficial demographics added 0.7 percentage points per year to GDP per capita growth. It predicts that through 2050, that advantage will shrink to just 0.2 percentage points per year. It says an aging population will put pressure on public finances and families to support older people.

"By 2050, there will be just 4.6 working-age individuals per senior (down from 10 today), and by 2100, 1.9—about the same as Japan today. This shift will strain public finances and family structures alike," says the report.

One way India can delay the negative economic consequences of demographic shift is by increasing female labor force participation (currently at 29% for ages 20-49 compared to 50-70% in other emerging economies). The report says that India can benefit from being increasingly important for the world. While today it represents 9% of global consumption, this is expected to rise to 16% in 2050.

Bengal Tigers win 1-0 agaist Delhi Pipers

Ranchi: Kathryn Mullan struck the only goal of the match to lead Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers to a narrow 1-0 win over Delhi SG Pipers in the Women's Hero Hockey India League (HIL), here Tuesday. Mullan (23') scored for the winners against the run of play in the second quarter. The Tigers fought tooth and nail to hold on to the one-goal lead for the rest of the game.

KIRAN MAKES HIS CHANCE COUNT

Pulls off thrilling win barely 24 hrs after his inclusion in the main draw of India Open 2025

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

UNTIL late Monday, Kiran George was not part of any equation for the India Open.

His name was included in the men's singles main draw of the ongoing BWF Super 750 event at the eleventh hour, following the withdrawal of a couple of players including Malaysia Open winner Shi Yuqi of China and Antony Ginting of Indonesia.

Shi might have taken a much-deserved break after a deep run in Kuala Lumpur but Kiran seemed to have embodied the spirit of a champion shuttler in his absence. At least, on Tuesday.

Facing a higher-ranked opponent in the form of Yushi Tanaka (World No 25), the Indian shutter operated with plenty of verve and displayed his capacity to withstand pressure to post a significant 21-19, 14-21, 27-25 victory in the Round of 32.

As the score suggests, the match that lasted a gruelling 71 minutes was a see-saw affair. Both players pulled off some delightful shots to wow the crowd throughout the course of the tie. In the decider, Kiran had created some gap but Tanaka rallied to force a tie-breaker. In fact, Kiran missed three match points and survived three himself. The Indian is pleased to be on the winning side. "It was a long gruelling match and I'm happy to come out on the winning side. It's a good win and will give me more confidence. I got to know about my entry only yesterday (Monday) but I had reached here on Saturday because I was part of the reserves and I was prepared," Kiran told this daily.

This might be just the first round but this is as good as

Kiran George in action during his Round 1 match in New Delhi on Tuesday | BAI

PV Sindhu in action during her Round 1 match in New Delhi on Tuesday | BAI

gold for someone like Kiran at this level. Ranked No 38 in the BWF world rankings, Kiran, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, has been in the quest to establish his name at the elite level and this victory is a step in the right direction. As of now, he's the fourth-highest ranked Indian in the world after Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy and Priyanshu Rajawat.

Kiran said that fitness is his No 1 priority. "For me, my focus is on the next match. In general, I'm just looking to stay fit and healthy and choose my events wisely," he said.

With 45 Indians -- 28 entries across categories -- including Kiran, this home event was looked at as an opportunity for some of the lesser-experienced shuttlers (at the highest level) from the country to gain some valuable insights ahead of a long season ahead.

Sindhu, Sat-Chi advance

PV Sindhu began her campaign with a 21-14, 22-20 victory over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo-yun. Having made a fresh start in her personal life, the recently-married Sindhu is hoping for the same in her professional life. Currently ranked World No 16, the double Olympic medallist has mostly struggled against the top-ranked players in the last twelve months or she is looking to turn things around, starting with this event.

On the day, Sindhu controlled the early tempo as her World No 24 opponent predominantly toiled in the opening stanza. In the second game, Sung course-corrected to push Sindhu until the end but the Indian maintained her composure to seal the match in her favour. "After a long break, it's always difficult to find the rhythm but I'm happy to have won the match in straight games," Sindhu, who'll go on to face Japan's Manami Suizu, told mediapersons after the match.

INDIA OPEN

In the evening, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also advanced. But they were made to work hard by their opponents on the day, Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee of Malaysia. The former World No1 pair from India won 23-21, 19-21, 21-16.

Treesa-Gayatri out

However, it was curtains for women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand. Seeded No 5, the India duo were outgunned by their lower-ranked opponents on the day. Japan's Arisa Igarashi and Ayako Sakuramoto crushed their hopes with a 23-21, 21-19 victory. Meanwhile, the mixed doubles combination of Druv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto had to come from behind to post a 8-21, 21-19, 21-17 result over Chinese Taipei's Chen Cheng Kuan and Hsu Yin-Hui in the Round of 32.

Fonseca in Melbourne stunner, Medvedev survives big scare

AGENCIES @ Melbourne

BRAZILIAN teenager Joao Fonseca stunned ninth seed Andrey Rublev in a major Australian Open shock on Tuesday as racquet-smashing 2024 finalist Daniil Medvedev narrowly avoided the same fate.

A rampant Taylor Fritz, veteran Gael Monfils and home hope Alex de Minaur also all progressed into round two at Melbourne Park.

In the women's draw, Jasmine Paolini and Elena Rybakina were both emphatic winners on day three, with Emma Navarro and Emma Raducanu also victorious.

But the day belonged to the 18-year-old Fonseca, who defeated Russia's Rublev 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) on his Grand Slam debut. Roared on by Brazilian fans decked out in yellow, Fonseca appeared totally unfazed as he set up a second-round meeting with Italy's Lorenzo Sonego.

"It's the first time playing in a huge stadium," he told an energised Margaret Court Arena. "There are a lot of Brazilians here cheering for me and I enjoyed every moment, thanks a lot."

Rublev's fellow Russian Medvedev, a three-time losing finalist in Melbourne including a year ago to Jannik Sinner, was heavy favourite against Thailand's 418th-ranked Kasidit Samrej. But in his first match of the season, the fifth seed nearly imploded in a fit of anger before finding some measure of calm.

"Second and third set I couldn't touch the ball. I didn't know what to do," Medvedev said after finally winning 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

The 28-year-old mangled his racquet as he spectacularly lost his rag in the third set, slamming it into the net camera repeatedly until they both became a broken mess.

There was no such trouble for fourth seed Fritz as he blitzed fellow American Jenson Brooksby 6-2, 6-0, 6-3 to launch his bid for a maiden Grand Slam crown.

France's Monfils battled through a five-set thriller to topple young countryman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard and continue the 38-year-old's late-career resurgence. Monfils became the oldest singles champion in ATP Tour history when he swept to victory at the Auckland Classic on Saturday.

Russia's Daniil Medvedev gestures while taking a break between games during his men's match against Thailand's Kasidit Samrej on Tuesday | AGENCIES

SCORES (SELECT, RD 1)

Men: Daniil Medvedev bt Kasidit Samrej 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 , Gael Monfils bt Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard 7-6 (9-7), 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, Joao Fonseca bt Andrey Rublev 7-6 (7-1), 6-1, 7-6 (7-5)

Women: Katie Boulter bt Rebecca Marino 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, Emma Raducanu bt Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-6 (7-4) 7-6 (7-2)

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES (SELECT)

Men: Novak Djokovic vs Jaime Faria, Yoshihito Nishioka vs Carlos Alcaraz

Women: Aryna Sabalenka vs Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, Coco Gauff vs Jodie Anna Burrage

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORKS

1st-round exit for Bopanna and Barrientos

AGENCIES @ Melbourne

FORMER world number one Rohan Bopanna and his new Colombian partner Nicolas Barrientos bowed out of the Australian Open men's doubles event with an opening-round loss to the Spanish team of Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar here on Tuesday.

Bopanna and Barrientos went down 5-7, 6-7 (5) in a match that lasted close to two hours. The 14th-seeded Indo-Colombian pair began on a promising note but faltered in crucial moments, allowing the Spaniards to capitalise and secure victory.

Bopanna and Barrientos got off to a solid start, holding serve comfortably in the initial games. However, the Spanish pair gradually gained momentum, showcasing consistency from the baseline and tactical net play. The decisive moment came late in the set when Martinez and Munar earned a crucial break to take the opener.

Trying to focus on building my innings, says Shafali Verma

GOMESH S @ Chennai

SHAFALI Verma is very much aware of where she stands at the moment. The India opener last turned up in the Blues during the ODI series against New Zealand after the early exit in the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup. Verma had scores of 33, 11 and 12 in the home ODIs versus White Ferns after finishing the global event with a disappointing 97 runs at 24.25. She was neither a part of the team that toured Australia nor the home series against West Indies and Ireland.

> I am trying to focus on building my innings. My starts are good but building an innings remains an issue. Now, I am focusing on how to get those singles, building the innings
>
> — Shafali Verma

In these trying times, the 20-year-old has gone back to the domestic circuit. From the senior women one-dayers — where she finished as leading runscorer with 527 runs at 152.31 SR — to the ongoing senior women challengers in Chennai, Verma has been accumulating runs for fun.

It was no different on Monday as Team A, which had already qualified for the final, took on Team D at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. During the chase of 212, Verma smashed 115 off 70 balls — a knock that had 14 fours and six 6s — and by the time she got out the victory was all but sealed. It was her third century in the format since getting dropped and she has also scored five fifties. Apart from the lone LBW shout early on against Saika Ishaque, there was not a moment where she looked like she was getting out. So much that it felt like she was too good for this level.

Ask her if making a comeback to the Indian team has been an extra motivation, Verma answers it in a matter of fact manner. "I think this is my job to do well for the team. I know I am dropped from the (Indian) team but it is my job to play well for the team (whichever I play for). And now, my focus is on challengers and I want to do well in the final and we win the trophy," she told the select media at the venue after the match on Monday.

Shafali Verma has been in stellar form through one-day challengers | FILE PIC

The 20-year-old said that the message from the team management has been about believing in herself and backing your strengths. While there is no doubt about her batting ability, one of the concerns raised was about her fielding. Although she didn't do much wrong in that department on Sunday, one has to wait and see how things are going forward.

For Verma, the focus has been about spending time in the middle and playing the long innings. She admits that not much has changed in terms of her batting technique but is trying to build the innings and convert starts. She is aware of the fact that the longer she stays, the higher the possibility of her team winning. "I am trying to focus on building my innings. As you all know, my starts are good but building an innings remains an issue. But now, I am focusing on how to get those singles, how to build the innings and how to do well for the team. That is what I am trying to do," she said. "And yeah, if I play long innings, as you can see, the team is winning," Verma added.

On Wednesday, she will be getting on the field at Chepauk, taking on Team C in the final. She enjoys being the captain and wants to get her hands on the trophy. Meanwhile, she is not taking every match lightly and wants to start from scratch every time she walks out to bat. "Every innings starts from zero. For the final also the innings will begin in zero and as I know, the team needs me a lot in the batting (department). So that is what I am trying, to try and build the innings well and we win the trophy," she signed off.

Rabada does star turn for Cape Town at SA20

AGENCIES @ Cape Town

MUMBAI Indians Cape Town became the first team to win two games in the ongoing edition of the SA20 after their 33-run win over Paarl Royals at Cape Town on Monday. They had Kagiso Rabada to thank for the same as the speedster returned figures of 2/22 across four overs. Apart from accounting for both openers when they had looked dangerous, he also delivered two wicket-maidens in the powerplay. At one point in the contest, he had barely believable figures of 2-0-2-2.

BRIEF SCORES

MI Cape Town 172/7 in 20 ovs (Van der Dussen 43, Hendricks 59, Potgieter 29, Galiem 3/24) **bt** Paarl Royals 139/9 in 20 ovs (Pretorius 26, Root 26, Mujeeb 34, Rabada 2/22, Rashid 2/28, Linde 3/15).

The visitors, thanks to their openers Joe Root and Lhuandre Pretorius, had gotten off to the ideal start in chase of 173. They were sitting pretty on none for 38 after three overs so the hosts threw the ball to Rabada. So often an SOS option, he struck off his very first ball, an uppish flick by Root snaffled by short fine leg. 0/38 in the first batch of three overs had become 3/60 in seven overs after Rabada picked up another, Pretorius not reading the slower ball and the skier pocketed in the deep.

After George Linde accounted for the dangerous David Miller shortly after Rabada's opening burst, the slide was well and truly on and the visitors never really got going after that. If the South African great sealed the win, it was Reeza Hendricks' 37-ball 59 that set them on their way after they opted to bat first.

PREMIER LEAGUE

January transfer window is teasing some big moves involving United, City & PSG

JAMES ROBSON

THE January transfer window is open and big names could be on the move, from Marcus Rashford to Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

It is often tricky to get big ticket deals over the line in the mid-season window, with prices inflated and budgets reduced — but the 2025 edition is teasing major moves, with Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain among Europe's giants tipped to spend before the Feb. 3 deadline.

The January window is effectively the last chance for clubs to make a major move to revive an ailing season or strengthen the push for silverware or Champions League qualification.

But it can be fraught with difficulty.

A perceived desperation from buying clubs to bring in targets can see valuations rise. Selling clubs are understandably reluctant to lose a key player midway through the campaign and look for extra incentive to offload now, rather than in the offseason.

They have little time to bring in their own replacements and with opposition teams aware of the windfall they may have just received for selling a star talent, negotiations become even more complicated.

Standoffs are regular. And so are negotiations that are pushed right to the wire on deadline day.

With clubs generally having spent large parts of their budget in the previous offseason, the preference for many is to wait until the end of the campaign. What potentially makes this window so unusual is the number of stellar players looking for a move — and how public they or their clubs are being about the situation.

Kvaratskhelia

The jewel of Napoli's Serie A-winning team in 2023, Kvaratskhelia has long been expected to move to one of Europe's leading teams.

PSG and Liverpool have both been linked with the Georgia international this month.

"Nine out of 10 times, 99 times out of 100 times in the end of the window, it's been clear that almost all of these stories weren't true," Liverpool coach Arne Slot said of January speculation last week.

But Napoli coach Antonio Conte has confirmed Kvaratskhelia wants a move.

"He asked the club to be sold," Conte said. "I spoke to the player who confirmed this decision to me. I am disappointed, it was a bolt from the blue, and I am taking a step back."

PSG, which has lost Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe in recent seasons, is in need of some stardust and Kvaratskhelia would fit the bill.

France international Randal Kolo Muani could exit the French champion.

Man City

With its Premier League title defense unraveling and qualification to the knockout stage of the Champions League in jeopardy, Pep Guardiola needs reinforcements.

Frankfurt forward Omar Marmoush is reportedly a target, as well as Lens defender Abdukodir Khusanov. Guardiola, however, refused to answer questions about Khusanov on Monday.

The City manager did reveal over the weekend, however, that captain Kyle Walker wants a move.

"He has been our right back and given us something that we didn't have and have been amazing. But now in his mind he would like to explore already, to go to another country to play the last years for many reasons," Guardiola said.

Chelsea

Chelsea has spent lavishly under U.S. owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital.

But much of the talk surrounding the club this month has been regarding departures. Coach Enzo Maresca said England defender Ben Chilwell might leave after failing to force his way into the team. *AP*

MANCHESTER UNITED

Rashford has been dropped by new United head coach Ruben Amorim and said last month he was "ready for a new challenge." There has been reported interest from Saudi Arabia and Monaco, but no confirmation of an official bid. The problem for Rashford and United is that he is only a year-and-a-half into a lucrative contract reportedly worth nearly $400,000 a week. Only the very richest clubs in the world could afford to match that salary and offer the sort of transfer fee United would be looking for to be able to make the type of signings Amorim needs to refresh his squad. If Rashford, who hasn't played since Dec. 12, is to leave this month, a compromise would likely have to be reached in terms of his valuation and salary. Much then could depend on the determination of both player and club for him to move. United likely needs to sell to be able make any major signings this month, with Amorim requiring more players to suit his preferred wingback system. The Premier League's financial rules mean United could benefit most from selling academy graduates like Rashford or Kobbie Mainoo because they represent pure profit, having cost nothing to bring to the club.

Kyle Walker

What you learn from a life in science is the vastness of our ignorance

- **David Eagleman**

CATASTROPHIC EVENTS: OVER THE YEARS, SOME WILDFIRES HAVE GAINED NOTORIETY FOR THEIR SCALE, INTENSITY, AND TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE

1 — 1910 — BIG BURN (USA)
Death Toll: 87+
Location: Idaho, Montana, and Washington
Cause: Lightning strikes and human activity during a period of drought

2 — 1931 — CHINESE FOREST FIRES (CHINA)
Death Toll: 1,000,000+
Location: The provinces of Jilin, Liaoning, and Heilongjiang
Cause: Dry conditions, human negligence, and war-related disruptions

3 — 1991 — OAKLAND HILLS FIRESTORM (USA)
Death Toll: 25
Location: Oakland Hills, California, USA
Cause: A combination of hot, dry conditions, strong winds, and human negligence (such as a spark from power lines)

4 — 2003 — AUSTRALIAN "BLACK FRIDAY" BUSHFIRES (AUSTRALIA)
Death Toll: 173+
Location: New South Wales and Victoria
Cause: Extreme heat, drought, and strong winds, compounded by human activities like arson

5 — 2004 — MIDEAST WILDFIRES (TURKEY, GREECE, AND CYPRUS)
Death Toll: 60+
Location: Eastern Mediterranean
Cause: Extreme weather conditions, high temperatures, and human factors such as arson and accidental causes

6 — 2009 — VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES (AUSTRALIA)
Death Toll: 173+
Location: Victoria
Cause: Extreme temperatures, dry conditions, and human activity, including arson

7 — 2010-11 — RUSSIAN WILDFIRES (RUSSIA)
Death Toll: 62+
Location: European Russia, including Moscow and surrounding regions
Cause: A combination of extreme heat, drought, and human activity, including neglected agricultural burns

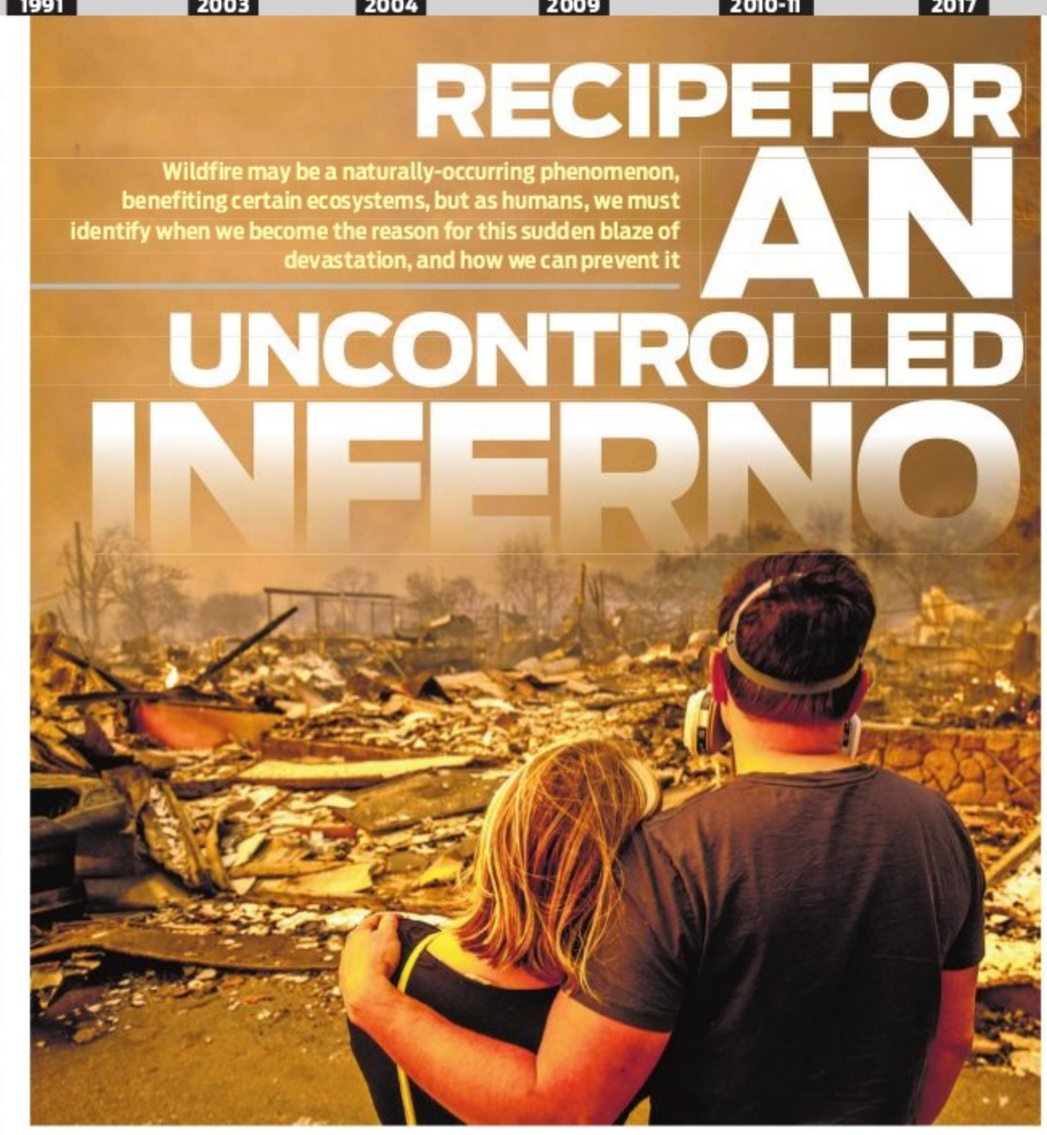
8 — 2017 — PORTUGAL WILDFIRES (PORTUGAL)
Death Toll: 66
Location: Central and northern regions
Cause: Extreme heat, strong winds, and dry conditions, along with human causes like arson

9 — 2018 — CALIFORNIA CAMP FIRE (USA)
Death Toll: 85
Location: Butte County, California
Cause: The fire was believed to have started due to faulty equipment from a nearby natural gas and electricity firm

10 — 2019-20 — AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES (AUSTRALIA)
Death Toll: 33+
Location: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia
Cause: A combination of record heat, drought, and human actions, including arson

RECIPE FOR AN UNCONTROLLED INFERNO

Wildfire may be a naturally-occurring phenomenon, benefiting certain ecosystems, but as humans, we must identify when we become the reason for this sudden blaze of devastation, and how we can prevent it



HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

IT is one of the five fundamental elements in nature. The earliest evidence of fire in fossil records is from the late Silurian Period (~420 million years ago), and humans began using fire ~400,000 years ago. Early humans used fire to hunt, and later to cook. Fire became a source of warmth and social gathering. In later years, during the Iron and Bronze Ages, fire was a key ingredient when man fashioned metallic tools and weapons. Fire also helped clear wild vegetation, so as to prepare land for agriculture. And yet, fire, like its peer elements, can never be tamed, and if left unextinguished in time, leaves behind a trail of devastation.

The recent California wildfires, predominantly in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, depict the raw nature of fire, and its ability to rapidly consume and destroy everything in its wake, and ultimately harm life. And it doesn't take much time for fire to intensify into wildfire!

Wildfires are uncontrolled blazes that spread rapidly across landscapes, often in forests, across grasslands, and rural areas. Though a natural phenomenon that has occurred for millions of years, it has become increasingly destructive in recent decades, fuelled by human activities and climate change. Apart from the above listed consequences, wildfires result in serious environmental degradation, and further detrimental economic impact. Depending on the type of green growth, a wildfire may be more specifically identified as a bushfire (in Australia), forest fire, desert fire, grass fire, hill fire, peat fire, Prairie fire, vegetation fire, or veld fire. Accordingly, wildfires constitute a common type of disaster in some regions, including Siberia (Russia), California (USA), British Columbia (Canada), and across Australia, predominantly the arid Outback. Areas with Mediterranean climates or in the taiga biome are particularly susceptible.

Causes of wildfires

While wildfires are commonplace nowadays, humans still haven't fully understood how a particular all-consuming blaze of this intensity begins, let alone be prevented, or stopped. Humans are expanding in population, and more habitation is resulting in encroachment of the wilderness, which above a lot of natural imbalances, is an ingredient for wildfires.

It is known that wildfires are ignited by both natural and human causes. Lightning is one of the most significant natural causes for wildfires. In areas where thunderstorms are frequent, lightning can light up dry vegetation, especially during the summer months when vegetation is at its driest. In some cases, lightning strikes can cause wildfires that spread over vast areas. A mere spark is enough to engulf vast swathes of land in no time. Similarly, flowing lava from volcanic eruptions in the vicinity, or even molten embers raining from the eruption zone, are enough to set dry vegetation afire, or worse consume acres of land. Spontaneous combustion – a fire without an external heat source – occurs when combustible materials, like dry leaves or compost, undergo a slow oxidation process that generates heat. If the heat builds up and reaches a critical point, it can ignite a fire too. Naturally occurring wildfires can have beneficial effects on ecosystems that have evolved with fire. In fact, many plant species depend on the effects of fire for growth and reproduction.

However, in several global instances recorded today, wildfires are a direct result of unchecked human activities, either accidentally or intentionally. Human practices have made the impacts of wildfires worse, with a doubling in land area burned, compared to natural levels. Humans have facilitated wildfires through climate change (eg. more intense heat waves and droughts) and land-use change (deforestation). More concerning, urban development encroaching wild lands, improper waste disposal becoming ignition sources, and suppression of natural fire cycles contribute to increased fuel availability, drier conditions, and more extreme fire behaviour when a wildfire starts; essentially making fires more frequent, intense, and difficult to control. Climatic cycles with wet periods that create substantial fuels, followed by drought and heat, often precede severe wildfires. All it takes is a spark, and like most other infernos, the flames simply continue consuming every combustible resource in their path. In the case of wildfires, a ready supply of dry grass, bark, dried leaves, twigs, litter (including paper, rubber and plastic), and even large trees – and as the blaze reaches human settlements, wooden dwellings – all provide a steady fuel supply to the wildfire, which swiftly overruns thousands of acres of land. The existence of oxygen, and methane from waste, exasperates the situation.

Apart from the accidental causes of wildfires, deliberate human involvement cannot be ruled out. Irresponsible control of a campfire, or flinging of a burning cigarette butt, are simple, yet deadly reasons that can tick off a wildfire. Besides, arson (the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property) and stubble burning are other human factors behind wildfires, with or without intention.

Lessons to be learnt

The hot, dry US state of California, situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, has seen its share of natural disasters. Wildfires aren't uncommon in this region, with the state and its wealthy cities having cutting-edge preemptive measures in place to respond to emergencies.

Meanwhile, the California wildfires of 2025, which began on January 7, affecting the LA Metropolitan Area and surrounding regions, have been amplified by drought conditions, low humidity, and hurricane-force Santa Ana winds, which have reached speeds of 130 kmph in some places. As of January 13, the wildfires have killed at least 24 people, forced nearly 180,000 to evacuate, and damaged more than 12,401 structures. Most of the damage has been done by the two largest fires: the Palisades Fire in Pacific Palisades, and the Eaton Fire in Altadena. They are likely the second and fourth most destructive fires in California's history respectively, according to Cal Fire.

The impact of wildfires can be far-reaching and devastating. Wildfires affect not only the environment, but also human health, property, and economies. They can subdue entire ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, and wetlands. Trees, shrubs, and other vegetation are destroyed, disrupting the habitat of countless animal species. While some plant species have evolved to withstand fire, others are severely harmed, and the regeneration of forests can take generations. Additionally, the loss of plant life can lead to soil erosion, as vegetation normally acts as a stabiliser for the soil. Wildfires can also release large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, creating climate change feedback. Also, Animals that rely on specific habitats are forced to flee, often with limited options for food and shelter. Some species are better equipped to survive wildfires, while others are more vulnerable. If the fire is widespread, it can displace entire populations, and many animals may not survive in the long term, leading to their extinction. The destruction of habitats can have long-lasting effects on biodiversity, especially for species that are already endangered. On the whole, it could result in irreparable natural imbalance.

Wildfires can irrevocably spoil air quality, thus posing health risks to all life. These fires release large amounts of smoke, particulate matter, and toxic gases, including carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds. These pollutants cause respiratory problems, heart issues, and other health complications for people in the affected areas. Individuals with pre-existing conditions are particularly vulnerable. Besides, thousands of people are forced to evacuate their homes, with their livelihoods getting destroyed.

This brings us to the mounting economic costs that follow the environmental costs of wildfires. In addition to the damage to homes and businesses, wildfires can disrupt agriculture. The destruction of crops and grazing lands can lead to food shortages and economic losses for farmers. Furthermore, firefighting efforts are costly, and recovery from the damage caused by wildfires can take years.

Mitigation strategies

Educating the public about the risks of wildfires and how to prevent them is critical. While it is impossible to completely eliminate their occurrence, there are various strategies aimed at reducing their frequency and impact. Communities in fire-prone areas are encouraged to create defensible spaces around their properties, which involve using fire-resistant plants, scientifcally removing dead vegetation, and maintaining proper clearance between trees and buildings to reduce the likelihood of a fire spreading to structures. They must also support a sustainable waste-disposal mechanism.

Early detection is essential to containing wildfires, before they spread out of control. Satellite technology, drones, AI, and ground-based surveillance can help identify fires in their early stages. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy, sustainable land and forest management practices, and carbon capture technologies can help slow global warming, thereby reducing the frequency and intensity of wildfires.

FOREST FIRES IN INDIA

Forest fires do occur in India. According to estimates, forest fires are the most significant and steadily increasing factor in the degradation process in the country, although the extent of total damage is widely disputed. However, it is believed that the proportion of forest areas prone to fire annually ranges from 33% in some states, to over 90% in others.

Frequency: 36% of India's forests are prone to frequent forest fires, and 4% are extremely prone

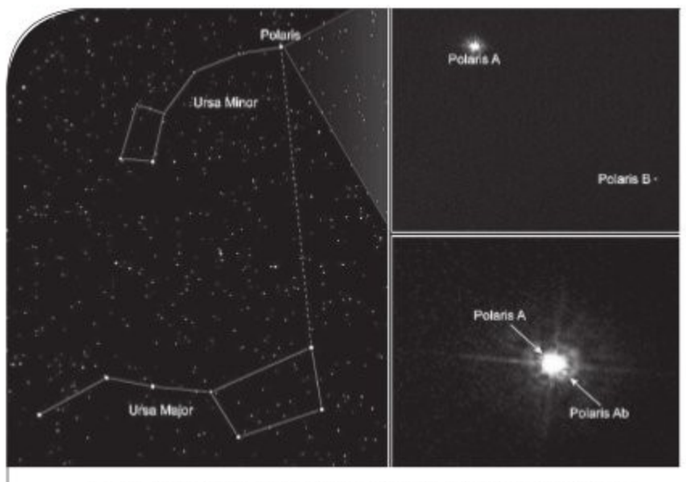
Season: Most forest fires in India occur between November and June

Causes: Most forest fires in India are caused by human activity

Impact: Forest fires can cause the loss of precious forest resources, including carbon locked in biomass

(Data from online sources)

Water dropped by helicopter on the Kenneth Fire in the West Hills section of Los Angeles on January 9. (Top) The aftermath of the Eaton Fire, which swept through, Altadena, California. | AP



The position of the North Star (Polaris) in constellation Ursa Minor

Polaris: The star that shows the way

POOJA K

WHEN you stare at the night sky, you see millions of stars above. However, one star stands out, not because it is the brightest, but because you can spot it at a fixed point, almost every night. This is the ethereal 'North Star' or 'Polaris'. Throughout history, Polaris has served as a symbol of hope, freedom and direction for mankind. For the 'enslaved' of North America, the North Star served as a path to liberation that guided them towards freedom, whereas, in literature and folklore, this star was often depicted as a metaphor for destiny.

For centuries, however, the Polaris, or the North Star, has been a celestial guide to explorers, travellers, and sailors navigating the vast oceans. This star is called the 'North Star' or the 'Polaris', because it is located in line with the Earth's axis, and directly above the North Pole. On the other hand, the word Polaris comes from the Neo-Latin phrase 'Stella Polaris', which means the 'Polar Star'. The North Star can be easily spotted from the Northern Hemisphere.

Polaris is located more or less directly above the Earth's North Pole, along its rotational axis, quite close to the point in the sky where the north rotational axis points to the 'North Celestial Pole'. Polaris can be easily spotted if you have a clear night sky. It is part of the constellation Ursa Minor, also known as Little Bear or Little Dipper, and to spot it, you must first spot the 'Big Dipper', because the two stars on the end of the Dipper's "cup" point the way to Polaris, which is the tip of the handle of the Little Dipper.

The Earth rotates continuously on its axis, because of which, the stars around the pole appear to rotate around the sky. There are an uncountable number of stars in the sky, and for hours, these stars sweep out of the circle around the celestial pole. So, the farther the star is from the pole, the larger the circle it travels in the sky. But, Polaris is very different because the Earth's axis is directly pointed at it. Meaning, unlike all the other stars in the sky, Polaris does not rise or set, but almost remains at the same point, year round. This makes it easier to know directions and makes it an important tool of navigation for sailors and travellers.

The North Star has existed as long as the universe, and because of this, its identification and significance cannot be attributed to a single person or culture. Ancient cultures like the Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks, Chinese and Polynesians recognised the importance of the North Star for navigation or symbolism. However, it was during the Medieval and the Renaissance periods that Polaris was widely recognised as a navigation aide.

It is believed that the Earth's axis wobbles every 26,000 years, because of which, the title of the 'North Star' is passed on to different stars over time. About 14,000 years ago, the celestial pole pointed toward the bright star Vega, and as it sweeps out its slow circle, it will again point to Vega in about 12,000 years.

BEHIND THE SCIENCE

LETITIA OBENG
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FOR AFRICA

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

Described as "the grandmother of female scientists in Ghana", Letitia Obeng was a distinguished environmental scientist, academic, and advocate for sustainable development. Born in Anum, a small town in the West African nation, Obeng made significant contributions to environmental science in Africa and beyond, focusing on various issues, particularly those impacting her home continent, such as conservation, climate change, and sustainable natural resource management.

Obeng went to prestigious educational institutions, which equipped her with the knowledge and expertise to address complex environmental challenges. She completed her undergraduate studies in Ghana, before pursuing advanced degrees abroad, including at the University of California, Berkeley. Obeng was the first Ghanaian woman to be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and Botany (1952), a Master of Science degree in Parasitology (1962), and a PhD in Tropical Medicine (1964). Obeng's training in environmental science allowed her to become an influential voice in both the academic and policy-making arenas. As one of the few African women to rise to prominence in environmental science, Obeng dedicated her career to researching and finding solutions for environmental degradation. She is today recognised for her work on preserving biodiversity, particularly in tropical ecosystems. Her research often explored the intersections of environmental protection and sustainable development, advocating for solutions that benefited both the environment and local communities.

Obeng also served in various leadership roles with environmental organisations, both in Ghana and internationally. She worked with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), contributing to global discussions on climate change, conservation, and sustainable resource management. She established the National Research Institute of Aquatic Biology, dedicated to researching Ghana's expansive man-made Volta Lake and its inland water system. Her advocacy for women's participation in environmental science is notable. Obeng mentored numerous young women, particularly in Africa, to pursue careers in science and environmental conservation. Throughout her career, Obeng received numerous accolades for her groundbreaking work. Her contributions have been instrumental in shaping environmental policies in Africa, and she continues to be an influential figure in global environmental discussions. She passed away on March 23, 2023.

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DAY'S DIARY

QUAKE

In 1934, an 8.4 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal and Bihar, destroying homes and heritage, with over 12,000 lives lost.

IMPACT

Cities like Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Patan in Nepal, and Munger and Darbhanga in Bihar were levelled. PM Shumsher led relief efforts with aide from India, and other countries.

RELIEF

The Bhukampa Pidit Udarak Adda coordinated funds, reconstruction, and relocation. Modern infrastructure ensued.

REBUILDING

Nepal's Rana rulers modernised Kathmandu with planned streets, wide roads, a commemorative column, and more.

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

CAPE CARNIVAL

Ahead of Comic Con 2025 this weekend, Ron Marz and Jamal Igle, comic-book artists whose genre-spanning works are widely celebrated and revered, speak on what's in store

ANUBHAB ROY

IT is finally that time of year when 'nerds' can shed off the bullying they face for actually being cool enough to like comics, and rise up in festive unison; Comic Con India is here! The Indian edition of the beloved international convention has a line-up of visionary artists, trailblazing local publishers, merchandise, and more.

Comic Con is a festival whose constriction to the urban metropolis in India is emblematic of the country's limited reading culture. Even standing in the year 2025, when graphic art and forms of storytelling transcending the textual have irrevocably intermingled with mass culture, the mention of the word 'comics', still, invites a sort of peculiar disdain (at least in India) whose implication seems to conjure an image of the form as an inherently inferior one. The advent of Comic Con in this regard is a much-needed intervention, despite its aforementioned limited reach and the fact that a medium needs this sort of 'legitimation' at all. Graphic artists from India already have the beloved Indie Comix Fest, but the stage of Comic Con is indubitably a bigger one. It is a stage that allows a mellifluous commingling of art from diverse spaces and demographics, which only benefits the art itself and the artists who produce it.

Ron Marz and Jamal Igle, American comic-book artists whose genre-spanning works are widely celebrated and revered (at least in the West), are as excited as the fans to be a part of Comic Con '25 in Bengaluru. "This is my first time in Bengaluru, but my second time in India. I have previously visited Hyderabad, now I'm looking forward to Bengaluru," Marz notes. Igle, for whom this trip will be his first to India in general, says: "Despite having a large Indian population in the United States, my only real exposure has been through the American lens, so to speak."

From 'The Dumas Family', drawn by Jamal Igle and published in DC's *Milestones in History*

Ron Marz's Green Lantern

In the vein of comics and the politics of its existence in the Indian context, Marz is more hopeful than cautious. "I think it just takes time," he states, continuing: "For decades, comics and graphic novels in America were seen only as juvenile entertainment. But in the last two decades or so, especially with so many comic stories making the transition to movies and television, the perception has really changed. I really believe the trajectory will be the same in India, as more and more people are exposed to the artform." A true artist, he does not shy away from expressing his ardent love for the form: "We do this because we love it, because we can't stop doing it."

Igle, who is 'a professor at a university that specialises in comic book art', not unlike Marz, acknowledges quite rightly India's nascence in the comic book scene and holds it responsible. In all his erudition he remarks that "Reading, in general, is an 'active participation media', meaning that to enjoy it, you must be fully engaged with it, as opposed to television, film, and music, for example." Igle's advice for upcoming artists is one of clarity: "You're going to grow and change as the world around you changes. Be flexible, be adaptable."

Accessibility, however limited, will be the key point in this year's Comic Con as well. As Marz notes, "Now comics are seen as just another way to tell a story, and seemingly everyone is a part of comic[s] culture thanks to conventions." Jatin Verma, founder of Comic Con India, is a picture of brimming optimism: "Bengaluru has always been at the heart of this vibrant scene, and we're excited to bring fans an even bigger and better experience this year."

(Comic Con is on Jan 18-19, at KTPO, Whitefield. Entry ₹899 onwards on insider.in)

A HAPPY HABBA!

British Deputy High Commissioner Chandru Iyer, shops at Gandhi Bazaar to prepare ellu-bella and celebrate Sankranti

CITY READ

Delivery app teams up with coffee chain

Swiggy's new SNACC app announced a partnership with Blue Tokai Coffee Roasters, offering a range of coffee varieties delivered in 15 minutes. Catering to working professionals, they offer high-quality food, including breakfast staples, baked goods, and healthy food options, with quick checkout and fast delivery.

Engineering group wins hockey tournament

The 6th edition of the Chairod Bheemaiah Hockey Cup witnessed a final culminating in Madras Engineering Group Boys being titled champions, defeating the Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports by 4-0. The three-day, five-a-side tournament featured 20 teams and 180 players. Padma Shri and former Indian hockey player MP Ganesh and hockey legends VR Raghunath, VS Vinaya, Amar Aiyamma, Nithin Thimmaiah, and Nikkin Thimmaiah graced the occasion.

KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS VERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'** Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*

1 The earliest attempt to provide hygienic drinking water to the city began in 1873 with the erection of a chain of tanks known as the Miller's Tanks. Today, the tank area is completely converted to a concrete jungle with government buildings, railway quarters, hospital and other offices. Name the railway station located near the tanks. Apparently this is the first railway station in the city.

2 The oldest lake in Bengaluru is marked as Hebbal Lake where researches corroborate the existence of the water body since 800AD with a portion of it still surviving (though not maintained). Like many other lakes in Bengaluru, a BMTC bus stand is built on the lake bund. True or False?

3 The surviving small remnant of a huge lake is worshipped as part of the ritual of the annual Karaga festival. Name this lake which was which was erected by Kempe Gowda in 16th century and was once a primary water source for the city? Sampangi or Dharmambudhi?

PG 3

After years of straight and silky hair being the beauty ideal, the Curly Girl Method, popular on social media, is helping youngsters embrace their natural curls

Sanya Malhotra

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

BEFORE curly-haired icons like Taapsee Pannu, Sanya Malhotra, and Kangana Ranaut gained popularity on the big screen, curly-haired Gen-Zs and millennials grew up watching actors and models with shiny, straight and uncannily frizz-free hair, waving in the wind, with not a single curl or wave in sight. With this, it's no wonder that many grew up not knowing their hair type or how to take care of it. In the last few years, with the 'curly girl method', a technique for maintaining and styling curly and wavy hair, gaining popularity on Indian social media, young people are learning to embrace their natural curls. "I had a weird relationship with my hair when I was younger; it was very thick. There were no curly hair icons at the time and when you'd occasionally see curly hair, it was not very natural. Once I started doing this method, my hair has become a greater part of my personality, it's a part of my identity, in a way," says Aasaavari Mohana Gobburu, an undergraduate student.

The curly girl method, created by black American stylist Lorraine Massey, advocates a multi-step routine to maintain textured hair and enhance natural curls, based on different hair types. It started gaining popularity among international beauty influencers around 2018, but became popular in India more recently. Isha Mukherjee, owner and creative director of Curl Up and Dye Hair Studio in Indiranagar, specialising in caring for curly hair, explains its popularity. She says, "During Covid, a lot of people left their hair alone without straightening it. Parallelly, curly hair brands started picking up in the market. I remember at one point, if we had 20-25 reviews, 10-15 of those reviews were around curly hair. As a community, curly-haired people were so troubled, and still are, that when they find a solution, they genuinely want to share it."

Shivika Kumar, a communications student, first heard about the curly girl method when she started college two years ago. "I didn't really know how to take care of my hair because people around me didn't know about it either, even though a lot of people in my family have curly hair. The major improvement I've seen is with curl definition. I also learnt a lot about how I should comb my hair when wet and protect it before going to sleep by braiding it," she says.

To beginners wanting to try the curly girl method, Meghna J, a Bengaluru-based influencer running the popular Instagram account '@fuzzycurls_', says, "If you find a hair type chart online and categorise yourself, it becomes easy to understand what products to use because the amount and type of products you need vary a lot when you compare 2B and 3A hair types." She suggests keeping it simple with a good shampoo, oil and gel. "If you want a little extra, you can go for a leave-in conditioner or a curl cream, and a serum to seal your hair. It's exactly like your skincare – you moisturise, apply serum, and then seal it with a sunscreen," she says.

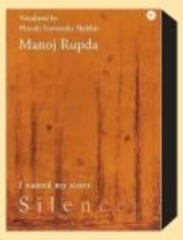
The multiple steps and products involved in the curly girl method can get overwhelming for some. Mukherjee suggests getting a professional consultation: "People come for haircuts after they've spent ₹3,000-₹4,000 for a bundle of stuff that may not work for them. Whereas you could come for a consultation, probably spend less than that, and get proper information about products aligned for you," she says.

(With inputs from Lavanya Tiwary)

Claim Your Curls

Taapsee Pannu

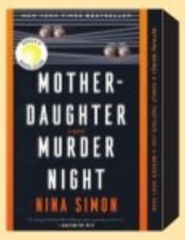
BOOK NOOK



I Named My Sister Silence

By Manoj Rupda and translated by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar

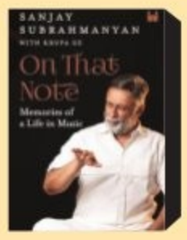
The themes of destruction, greed and emotional scars left in their wake, reflecting on the painful experience of abandonment — whether by a mentor, a companion, or even a sister.



Mother-Daughter Murder Night

By Nina Simon

This story revolves around a grandmother, mother and daughter who, while grappling with personal challenges, come together to solve a murder, uncovering the hidden truths and strengthening their bond along the way.



On That Note: Memories of a Life in Music

By Sanjay Subrahmanyan with Krupa Ge

This autobiography offers an intimate and candid look at the life of a renowned Carnatic musician, shedding light on both the artistic and the human side of being a professional artiste.

Self Help: This Is Your Chance to Change Your Life

By Gabrielle Bernstein

Demystifying the power of Internal Family System (IFS) Therapy, this practical guide aims to help you recognise negative patterns in your thinking, foster self-compassion, and unlock your inner potential for lasting changes.

IN FOCUS

A cricketer hones her batting skills during a practice session at the Karnataka Institute of Cricket, Shivaji Nagar | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

CHICKEN THUKPA

INGREDIENTS

- **Chicken thighs diced:** 400g
- **Egg noodles:** 150g
- **Chicken stock cubes:** 2
- **Minced garlic & ginger:** 1 tbsp each
- **Chopped chillies:** 2
- **Chopped spring onions:** 4-5
- **Sliced mushrooms:** 2 cups
- **Shredded cabbage:** 1 cup
- **Sliced carrots:** 1 cup
- **Tomato ketchup:** 1 tbsp
- **Black pepper powder:** 1 tbsp

METHOD

- In a large pot, heat some oil and sauté garlic, ginger, and chopped chillies until fragrant. Add diced chicken thighs and cook until lightly browned.
- Stir in mushrooms, cabbage, carrots, and spring onions. Sauté for 3-4 minutes until the vegetables begin to soften.
- Add 1 litre of water and dissolve the chicken stock cubes in it. Stir in tomato ketchup and black pepper powder and keep in simmer for 10 minutes.
- Cook egg noodles separately, drain and set aside.
- Add the cooked noodles to the broth and mix well. Serve hot, garnished with extra spring onions and seasonings if desired.

Contributed by **Pratyashi Deka**, Bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Leafing An Impression

Learn the basics of gold leaf art to create a meaningful memory. With materials provided, this two-hour session offers a beginner-friendly experience under expert guidance.

WHEN: January 15, 12pm
WHERE: StoryZone, HSR layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Artful Day

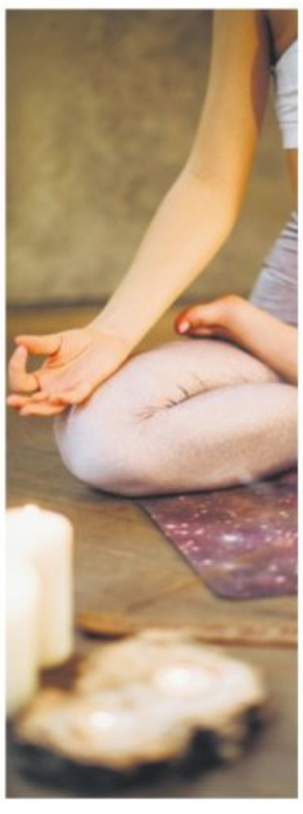
Curated for kids, this interactive session promises to ignite your child's creativity as they make a Christmas-themed candle, craft two fridge magnets, and enjoy snacks along the way!

WHEN: January 15, 5pm
WHERE: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Magic of Music

Indulge yourself in a jamming session by Lahe Lahe Caravan that promises to transform your weekday blues into a night of unforgettable musical memories.

WHEN: January 15, 7.30pm
WHERE: Treehouse, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Mindful Moves

Immerse yourself in the world of tranquillity, that blends traditional yoga postures with modern techniques.

Curated for beginners and intermediate practitioners, this workshop promises to calm your mind and rejuvenate your spirit.

WHEN: January 16, 6am
WHERE: New York Dance Classes, BTM 2nd Stage
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Tiger Tales

Witness the awe-inspiring story of India's Tiger conversation success in a captivating documentary titled Project Tiger. Explore the challenges, triumphs, and unfolded story behind the legacy.

WHEN: January 15, 6.30pm **WHERE:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Beat Escape

Break free from the mid-week blues at Project Thursday, the ultimate electronic fiesta featuring DJ artiste Uzi with heart-pounding beats and a high-energy crowd.

WHEN: January 16, 9pm
WHERE: Watson's Indiranagar, Doopanahalli
DETAILS: insider.in

Ladies First!

Glam up and party in style at the Skirt Ladies Night keeping the holiday spirit alive with the grandest post-Christmas celebration. Enjoy unlimited drinks, exclusive goodies for ladies, and a vibrant desi music dance floor.

WHEN: January 15, 10.01pm
WHERE: Hydra Club & Kitchen, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Annson Mathews

The writer is a founder and director of Notes N Chords School of Music

How to Run A Music School

Forming meaningful connections with students is an essential first step when it comes to running a music school. No two individuals nor their musical journeys is alike. Here are the key aspects to keep in mind.

Set a clear purpose: Decide whether to focus on professional training, fostering creativity, or building community connections. A well-defined mission helps align goals, attract the right students and guide decision-making for long-term success.

Develop a curriculum: Design a curriculum that balances practical skills, theory, performance, and fun. A structured yet flexible approach along with regular assessments keeps learning engaging.

Create a supportive environment: Foster an atmosphere that encourages creativity and expression. Equip your school with quality instruments, soundproof spaces, modern facilities, and qualified teachers.

Build a strong team: Recruit skilled and passionate teachers who share your vision. Experienced instructors with a knack for mentoring are vital for student growth. Regularly train your team to stay updated with the latest music education trends and techniques.

Engage with the community: Host events like recitals, concerts, and workshops to build connections with the local community. These activities provide students with real-world exposure and create opportunities for collaboration.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

NAVASANA VARIATION 1

(BOAT POSE VARIATION 1)

This is a preparatory variation pose for Navasana (Boat Pose) for beginners who cannot make their legs straight as required in Boat Pose. Keeping the legs straight is comparatively challenging and takes time. Students can do this variation pose with their legs bent at the knees to learn the required strength and balance. It helps strengthen the core and can aid in weight loss. It helps boost energy in the body and hence can be included in flow yoga sequences.

STEPS

- Start sitting in Dandasana (Staff Pose), stretching out your body. While doing this, keep the spine straight and legs stretched out.
- Keep placing your hands beside your hips on the floor, pressing the thighs and stretching the heels away from the body to make the legs completely straight.
- Now, lift your torso away from the floor to expand the chest and slightly incline your back. Then, lift the front body from the pelvis to the diaphragm.
- Now, bend your knees, and place your feet on the floor. Place the palms on the top of the knees. Gently pull to lift the sternum.
- After that, lift your feet from the floor until the shins are parallel to the floor. Keeping the legs together, bring your thighs closer to the chest.
- Stretch your arms straight forward beside your knees, parallel to the floor and the palms facing each other without dropping the chest.
- Make sure not to let the back round. Here, note that even though the arms are stretched forward, the shoulders are pulled back to engage the upper back to move backwards while pushing forward the chest.
- Relax your head and gaze straight. Initially, holding the pose may be difficult for you. So, try to hold the pose for 15-20 seconds. With regular practice, the duration can be increased up to one minute.
- Finally, exhale and relax in Dandasana.

BENEFITS

- This yoga asana helps in losing belly fat.
- This pose is good for the kidneys as it strengthens them and tones them.
- Helps in placing the navel in the right and appropriate position.
- Helps in gastric juice secretion and is quite effective for the process of digestion.
- Helps in the secretion of pancreatic juices which regulates the function of the pancreas and hence cures diabetes.
- This is a very powerful yoga posture and provides comfortable stretching for abdominal muscles. It also assists in developing six-pack abs.
- It improves blood circulation by burning excess fats in the veins and arteries.
- This pose is very helpful in curing kidney problems.
- This also helps remove the toxins present in the body, making the body more active and energetic.
- Regular practice of this pose strengthens back muscles.
- Strengthens the entire body systems like digestive, muscular, circulatory, hormonal and nervous systems.

LIMITATIONS

- Students suffering from hernia should consult an expert.
- Avoid this if you have high BP, migraine, asthma, spinal and heart issues.
- Women who are pregnant or in the period should not practice this pose.
- Students with hip joint pain, arthritis, diarrhoea, insomnia or neck injury must avoid this pose.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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ARTCORNER

TEA BREAK

Artist Anupama Rajiv captures the essentials that make up the integral chai time in a typical Malayali's day – tea, local snacks, bananas, and newspaper

Becoming One's Own Sandalwood

In Bengaluru recently, children's writer Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan talks about her new book, Sandalwood's Story

Sandalwood's Story
Sandalwood's Story
Sandalwood's Story
It's very important to understand that we're all part of a shared planet... that even though we may look different, speak different languages, eat different things, we are all ultimately part of humanity
Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan, author
PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

GAYATHRI M KURUP

A DEEP, wise voice echoes within the walls, and children are immediately immersed in its soulful eloquence. Their curious eyes search for answers, eager to speak up and share their perspectives. **Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan**, with a copy of her recent book *Sandalwood's Story* (Wonder House Books; ₹399), looks at the children with excitement. Her expressions change with every turn in the story as if she is reading the book for the first time, taking all of us into a world of imagination and innocence and bringing the story to life.

Sandalwood's Story tells the tales of a resilient sandalwood tree reassuring the other trees of the beauty of being unique and different. Throughout this narrative, Srinivasan conveys stories of human experiences, affirming to children that despite their differences, they are special in their own ways.

"It's very important to understand that we're all part of a shared planet, that we're all part of the same world, that even though we may look different, speak different languages, eat different things, we are all ultimately part of humanity... children need to understand that even if they're different, even if their friends are different, they're all children with similar impulses and universal hearts. We all have families. We all care about each other. That kind of thinking is important," says Srinivasan, in conversation with *CE* at a reading session at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar.

In a world that thrives on expectations, *Sandalwood's Story* comes as a light reminder to love oneself and embrace one's uniqueness. Through her narration of animals and plants, Srinivasan tries to anthropomorphise the characters, so that children can empathise and identify with them and learn from them.

"What I tell children is, yes, we have many Sandalwoods in our life. We need to be able to recognise who they are. Usually, our mother is a Sandalwood or our father is a Sandalwood or our big brother is, or our best friend is," states Srinivasan. Her choice of Sandalwood as the protagonist is also noteworthy, she deems it to be a 'cooling tree', essentially positing a central balming effect to the character.

While Srinivasan's stories resonate deeply with children, her stories are also cherished and loved by her family, including her brother, politician Shashi Tharoor, who has a special fondness for *Sandalwood's Story*. She shares with a smile her fond memory of him launching the book in New Delhi and later choosing to read it at an event. "My brother is delighted to see that my children's books are garnering so much interest all over the country. In fact, I rarely ask him to launch a book because I know how busy his schedule is but he launched *Sandalwood's Story*," she says.

During her interactions with children, Srinivasan shares the story of Parvati, a female elephant from her previous book *Parvati the Elephant's Very Important Day* (Harper Children's; ₹499). Parvati, who was overshadowed by her brothers, is finally recognised for being herself. The story subtly draws a parallel to various real life examples where women are recognised under the shadows of their husband, father or brothers – a role imposed to them without a choice. Coming from a family of fame, Srinivasan stands on her own.

Through the vibrant illustrations and engaging narrations, the story pierces right through the children's curious minds making them laugh, think, and learn. "What they read today, in many ways, will influence the ideas they carry with them into adulthood. And so, if I've had a chance to, in some way, open up some little portal in their heads about new ideas, it's really a privilege and a gift," says Srinivasan.

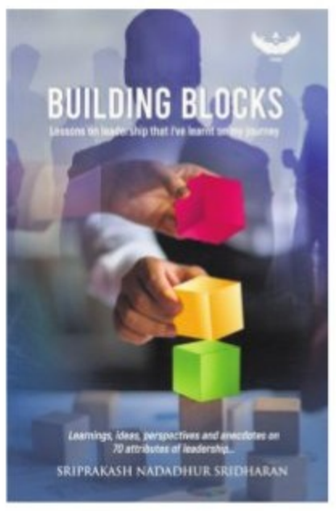
READ to LEAD

Author Sriprakash Nadadhur Sridharan talks to *CE* about his new book *Building Blocks*, a handbook on leadership

PIC: ALLEN EGENUSE J

ANUBHAB ROY

BOOKS on leadership, entrepreneurial insight or betterment of any other aspect of personhood now housed in the 'self-help' category, enjoy a sort of unhindered proliferation especially in the Indian market. Their reach seems to border on omnipresence, and their sales are evident from the pomp with which they adorn the main desks of any bookshop. **Sriprakash Nadadhur Sridharan**'s *Building Blocks* (Garuda Prakashan; ₹499) is one of the latest additions to this burgeoning pile, trying to impress upon the reader that 'all of us can be leaders'.

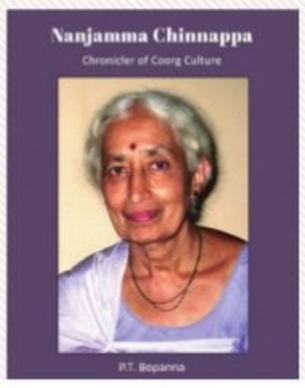

BUILDING BLOCKS
Learnings, ideas, perspectives and anecdotes on 70 attributes of leadership...
SRIPRAKASH NADADHUR SRIDHARAN

Like many who try their hand at making inroads into this genre, Sridharan has been a tried and tested entrepreneur. The founder of Prajna Consulting, a boutique consulting firm, he has over two decades of experience in business development, consulting, and marketing. In his own words, he lists two instances of significance that prompted him to write a book, after years of experience outside anything remotely related to writing, much less publishing. "There are two instances that deeply impacted me," Sridharan states, continuing: "My interaction with S Srinivasan, former head of leasing, Sundaram Finance – he spent quality time with us (me and couple others) during our summer internship and taught us on varied subjects. What he made me realise was, 'A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle, it only spreads the light.' It made me dump my insecurity especially with respect to sharing knowledge." Moving on to the second, he mentions: "Another one was the John C Maxwell leadership workshop that I attended when I was a management trainee at a leading conglomerate. I was thrilled to attend the workshop as he was one of my favourite leadership gurus. It focused on some of the basics like active listening, active learning, communication, etc. Later in life, I realised that they taught me a few powerful lessons that changed my life forever."

Building Blocks acts as a condensation of Sridharan's formula, whose experience as a leadership columnist has served him well. This condensation pools into a mellow mist of '70 attributes of leadership', or what he calls 'A to Z' of leadership. The titular 'blocks' refer to these attributes, and build up to enact the fullness of a leader. The attributes, he believes, are not exclusive to those who assume positions of objective esteem; leaders, he stresses, are everywhere and inherently all of us. Bringing the notion of leadership right down to the median individual, it seems, is key to achieving an orientation that sees the fulfilment of such potential. As he attests, the nature of this is purely anecdotal: "I started believing that there are leadership lessons in every incident that we come across in our lives. I started observing things around me and my near/dear ones which were not only interesting but taught me lessons for life. I started penning them down in my notepad. Though I wanted to share my learnings with the society at large, it would have remained in my diary forever, thanks to my mom for getting me out of my comfort zone and seeding the thought of getting it out as a book. I slowly started converting my writings/scribblings to simple stories that are relatable and which could drive home powerful leadership lessons."

NUGGETS

A book tribute to chronicler of Kodagu's legacy



Author and journalist PT Bopanna's recently released *Nanjamma Chinnappa: Chronicler of Coorg Culture* (Prism Books Pvt Ltd; ₹195) is a tribute to the renowned Kodagu researcher and author Boverianda Nanjamma Chinnappa, who passed away in March 2024. The book takes the readers through a collage of works of Nanjamma, in presenting and preserving the true essence of the cultural heritage of Kodagu. The standout feature of the book is that it includes a chapter on introduction to Kodagu and Kodavas penned by the Chinnappas. Alongside, the book features the flavours of Kodagu cuisine by Nanjamma Chinnappa. The paperback copy of the book can be purchased on amazon.in.

FLYLEAF
V R FEROSE

(The author is a technologist based in Silicon Valley who is gently mad about books)

Experiencing Bob Dylan, in reverse

I EXPERIENCED Bob Dylan in reverse. My journey began at the Outlaw Music Festival on August 3, 2024, at the Shoreline Amphitheatre, where I saw him perform at the age of 83. After that, I read *Folk Music: A Bob Dylan Biography in Seven Songs* by Greil Marcus and met Joan Baez, Dylan's early love. Recently, I watched the biographical film *A Complete Unknown* before reading *Dylan Goes Electric!* (the book on which the movie is based). I explored the documentaries *Don't Look Back* and *No Direction Home* before diving into his music.

I am no expert on Dylan – just one of millions of fans captivated by his enduring magic and unparalleled musical genius. My collection of Bob Dylan memorabilia includes a rare signed photo and his signed books, *The Bob Dylan Scrapbook: 1956–1966* and his only work of fiction, *Tarantula*.

The unorthodox selection of Bob Dylan as the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature recipient – the first songwriter to win – was bound to spark controversy. According to the official citation, he won the prize for "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."

But the Nobel will never outweigh Dylan's true accomplishment: his powerful songs helped fuel the civil rights movement. He performed four songs on stage just before Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic 'I Have a Dream' speech in Washington, D.C.

Among the ten books authored by Dylan (including his Nobel lecture), *Chronicles: Volume One* stands out as essential reading. It offers an intimate look at his thoughts, influences, and is a poignant reflection on life, people, and places that shaped him. Another unexpected gem is *The Beaten Path*, a stunning portrait of the American landscape. Through sketches, watercolours, and acrylics, Dylan charts a visual journey across the US, finding beauty in overlooked locations that form the backdrop of everyday life.

After Dylan performed at the White House in 2010, Barack Obama recounted the experience in *Rolling Stone*. Dylan skipped rehearsal and declined a photo with the Obamas but delivered a beautiful rendition of *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. Afterwards, he simply shook Obama's hand and left – embodying the elusive nature that many admire.

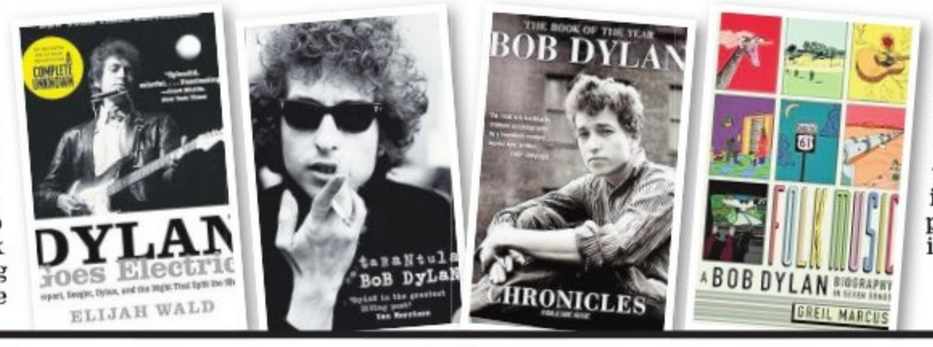
Dylan's complex persona only adds to his allure. His resistance to conforming to the expectations of fame is part of what makes his music resonate so deeply. Even as his voice has aged, the authenticity of his performances remains compelling. Fans appreciate the raw honesty that comes through – a reflection of a life rich with experience and introspection.

Throughout his career, Dylan has continually reinvented himself while maintaining a core authenticity that resonates with audiences. His music transcends generations, offering commentary on societal issues and personal struggles alike. Reflecting on my journey with Dylan, I see his influence extends far beyond music; he has shaped cultural landscapes and inspired countless artists.

Listening to Dylan live at 83 was bittersweet. His voice, weathered by time, mirrors the evolution of an artist adapting to life's changes. Unlike many performers, whose voices smooth into polished conformity, Dylan's voice remains an authentic expression of his experiences.

In an era dominated by fleeting trends, Dylan's work endures, continually evolving while grounded in profound truths. He embodies artistic integrity, reminding us of the power of music and storytelling to connect.

(The writer's views are personal)



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SYED MUNAVER residing at No.18/4, 4th Cross, Muni Nanjappa Garden, Kaval Byrasandra, R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru- 560032, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SYED MUNAVER to (NEW NAME) SYED MUNAVER SYED IBRAHIM** vide affidavit dated 13.01.2025 sworn before Notary D.S.Chandrakanth., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANJU KUMARI** (Old Name) W/o Kunal Raj, Residing at Flatno-202, Shree Sai Enclave , 5th Cross, New Thippasandra, Rama Temple Road, Bengaluru - 560075, have changed my name to **ANJU RAJ** (New Name) with affidavit dated 09-01-2025, sworn before Notary & Advocate A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **POOJA CHUGH**, W/o Harish Kumar Chugh, R/o Flat No. L 307, 3rd Floor, BML Palms, 55/9B, J K Kaval MS Palya, Bengaluru - 560097, do hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **POOJA SALUJA** to **POOJA CHUGH**. Henceforth, I shall be known and called as **POOJA CHUGH** only, vide affidavit dated 13.01.2025, sworn before notary K C Pemmaiah, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HIMA SAJIV D/o. Sajeevan C V, R/a 29, Krishna Krupa, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Byraveshwara Layout, Hennur Bhande, Bangalore - 560 043, have changed my name from **HIMA SAJEEVAN** to **HIMA SAJIV** vide affidavit dated : 10.01.2025 Sworn before Advocate & Notary G B Turamari, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt. **SHOBANA SHANKAR, W/o R RAVI SHANKAR,** residing at #D1-302, White House Apartments, 6th Main, 15th Cross, R.T Nagar, Bangalore - 560032, hereby declare that my name is mentioned as **SHOBANA LAXMAN** in some share certificates and as **SHOBHANA LAXMAN** in others. I state that my correct name is **SHOBANA SHANKAR.**
I affirm that both names **SHOBANA LAXMAN** and **SHOBHANA LAXMAN** refer to me **(SHOBANA SHANKAR)** only.
This affidavit is sworn on 10th day of January 2025 before **Notary S. N. Madhu,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHREENIDHHI D/o. Sajeevan C V, R/a 29, Krishna Krupa, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Byraveshwara Layout, Hennur Bhande, Bangalore- 560 043, have changed my name from **SHREENIDHI** to **SHREENIDHHI** vide affidavit dated: 10.01.2025 Sworn before Advocate & Notary G B Turamari, Bangalore.

SMARTADS

TOURS
07/01/2025, 12/03/2025, 09/04/2025 Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand 7/11 days
11/02/2025, 18/03/2025, 13/04/2025 Srilank 7 days
11/02/2025, 05/03/2025, Gujarat 8 days
07/02/2025, 13/03/2025 Ujjain-Omkareshwara 4 Days
20/02/25, 18/03/2025 Rajastan 9 days
10/03/2025, 17/03/2025 Kashi Gaya, Ayodhya 4/7 days
23/02/2025, 20/03/2025 Puri, Bhubaneshwara 4 days
07/02/2025, 17/03/2025, Madhya Pradesh 10 Days
07/02/2025, 16/02/2025, 11/03/2025 North East Tour 6/9 Days.
JAIN TRAVELS
Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03.
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9886550650
080-22866893

Raanna to headline Punit Rangaswamy's directorial debut

Raanna

Tharun Kishore Sudhir

CE FEATURES

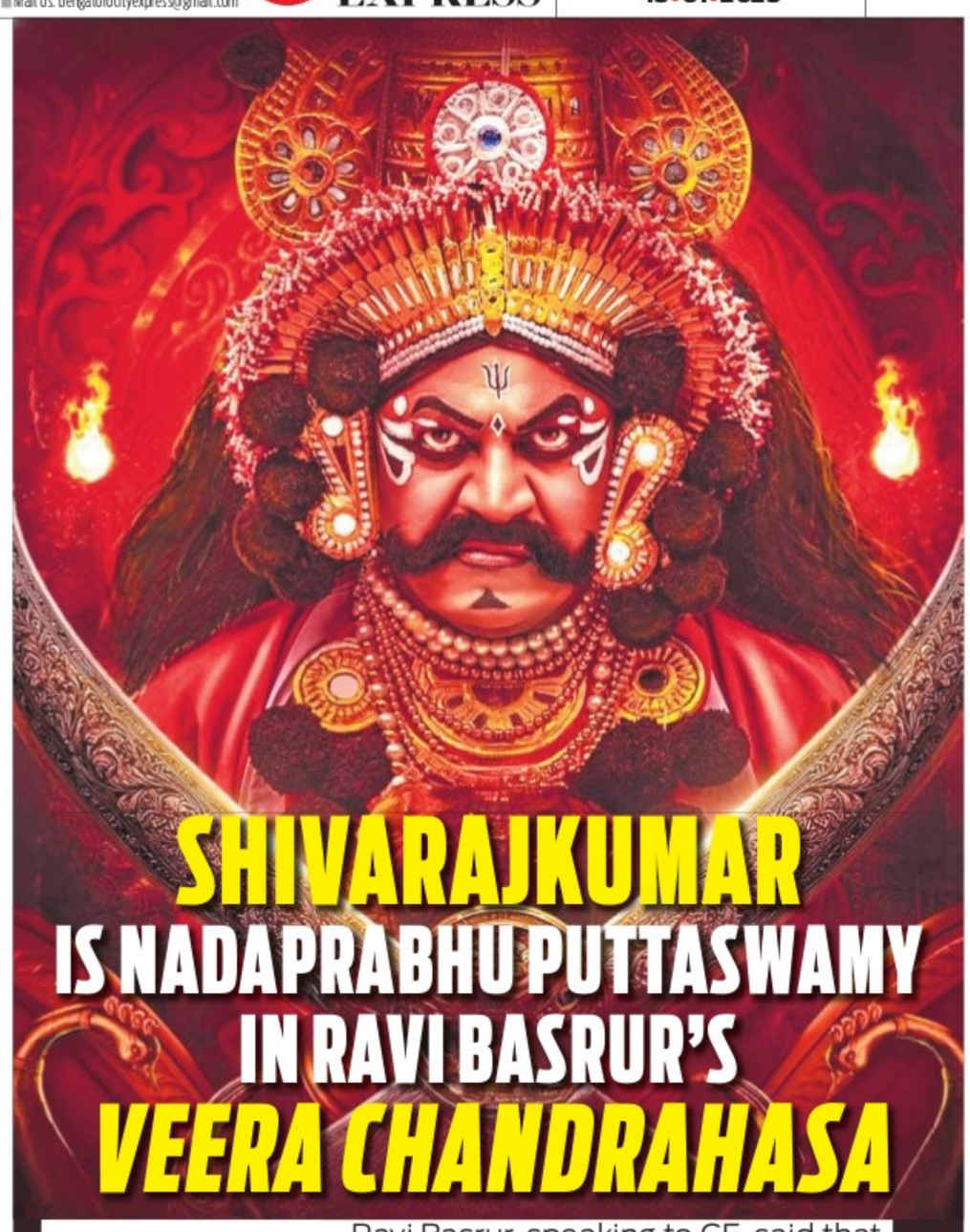
AS we previously reported, Tharun Kishore Sudhir, the director of *Chowka* and *Kaatera*, is gearing up for his second production venture under Tharun Sudhir Kreatiivez. The film, which is co-produced with Atlanta Nagendra, is based on a real-life incident that promises to deliver a gripping, emotional story.

This untitled project marks the directorial debut of lyricist and storyteller Punit Rangaswamy. The team is set to begin filming on January 20 and has now finalised Raanna, the actor brother of Rakshitha, as the lead. Known for his role in *Ek Love Ya*, directed by Prem, Raanna returns after a three-year break for his sophomore project. The announcement was made via a unique motion poster featuring a driving license design, showcasing a younger version of Raanna's passport-size photo. According to producer Tharun, this poster reflects the film's central theme—a blend of raw emotion, thought-provoking moments, and a realistic portrayal of the incident that took place in MM Hills and inspired the story.

Tharun shared that he was specifically looking for an actor without a strong image, and Raanna was the perfect fit for the role. "I was impressed by his natural, next-door look in *Ek Love Ya*. His performance caught my attention, and I believed he would do well in this film," said Tharun.

Filming will take place in locations near the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, including Chamarajanagar, Salem, and Erode. The team plans to wrap up the first schedule in the coming weeks, after which Raanna will take a brief break for his wedding before filming resumes.

The film is presented by Narasimha Nayak (Raju Gowda), and its technical crew includes Sudhakar S Raj as the cinematographer, KM Prakash as the editor, and Rajshekar as the art director.



SHIVARAJKUMAR IS NADAPRABHU PUTTASWAMY IN RAVI BASRUR'S *VEERA CHANDRAHASA*

Ravi Basrur, speaking to CE, said that the actor has filmed his portions a couple of months ago while he was undergoing treatment and completed shooting

A SHARADHAA

RAVI Basrur, the composer and director, is excited to return to the director's chair with his ambitious historical drama *Veera Chandrahasa*. Set in the mythical Kuntala kingdom, the film explores the legend of Chandrahasa, a character believed to have existed even before the Mahabharata. What makes this film unique is its innovative storytelling approach, which combines historical elements with traditional Yakshagana performance, merging ancient art with modern filmmaking techniques. The film is elevated further by the presence of Shivarajkumar in a key role.

On the occasion of Sankranti, the makers revealed a significant detail: Shivarajkumar, fondly known as Shivanna, is set to make history in Yakshagana avatar on the silver screen. The film's character poster, featuring Shivanna as Nadaprabhu Shiva Puttaswamy, has already generated a lot of buzz. Interestingly, his real name is Nagaraju Shiva Puttaswamy, adding a personal touch to his portrayal.

Speaking to CE, Ravi Basrur shared his excitement about the project. He described *Veera Chandrahasa* as a dream come true, and his enthusiasm only grew when Shivarajkumar came on board. "Shivanna's role in the movie is something special," said Ravi. "His appearance in the Yakshagana attire is a visual treat. He shot for more than a few days, a couple of months ago, even while undergoing treatment. He told me that roles like this come once in a lifetime, and his passion for acting drove him to take on any challenge, regardless of the circumstances."

Shivarajkumar and Ravi Basrur

Ravi also mentioned the dedication Shivanna showed during his scenes. "Even though a regular Yakshagana performer gets tired after an hour of wearing the traditional attire, Shivanna wore it from morning until 6:30 PM till dawn without a break. He didn't even have lunch until after the shoot, showing the immense respect and commitment he had for the role."

Veera Chandrahasa features a talented cast, including Shithil Shetty, Nagashree GS, Prasanna Shettigar Mandarti, Uday Kadabaal, Ravindra Devadiga, Nagaraj Servegar, Gunashree M Nayak, Shridhar Kasarkodu, Shwetha Arehole, and Prajwal Kinnal. Additionally, around 450 Yakshagana artists will appear in the film, adding to its grandeur.

Produced by Omkar Movies in collaboration with Ravi Basrur Movies, the film is overseen by producer NS Rajkumar, with co-producers Geetha Ravi Basrur, Dinakar of Viji Group, Anup Gowda, and Anil USA. After wrapping up the shooting, Ravi Basrur is now preparing for the film's release, which is expected to hit theaters in the second half of 2025.

Vidyapathi sets release date

CE FEATURE

NAGABHUSHANA, who was last seen in *Tagarupalya*, is gearing up for his next *Vidyapathi*. This fun entertainer, also starring and Malaika T Vasupal, is all set to release on April 10. The release date was unveiled by Daali Pictures, owned by Dhananjaya, through a special video announcement. This marks the fourth production venture from Daali Pictures.

The film features an ensemble cast, including Rangayana Raghu as the Karate Master. Directed by Esham and Haseen, *Vidyapathi* is said to be an engaging mix of action, comedy, and drama. Directors Esham and Haseen also take credit for the story, screenplay, and editing.

Lavith handles the cinematography, while DossMode provides the music. The choreography is directed by Muruli, the lyrics are penned by Sujith Venkataramaiah, and the action sequences are overseen by Arjun Master.

Nagabhushana

'Kelo Maccha' from *Just Married* is an energetic party anthem

Ajaneesh Loknath, Sudeep and CR Bobby

Shine Shetty

CE FEATURES

THE party anthem, 'Kelo Maccha', from the film *Just Married* has finally dropped, and it's everything fans hoped for! Released digitally today, this electrifying track is bursting with energy and fun. To add an extra spark, the song was unveiled by the legendary Kichcha Sudeep, making its debut even more memorable. 'Kelo Maccha' is a vibrant and infectious anthem that's guaranteed to get everyone on their feet. Sung by the dynamic Nakash Aziz, the track comes alive with punchy lyrics from Nagarjun Sharma and an upbeat composition by the talented B Ajaneesh Lokanath, creating the perfect soundtrack for any celebration.

Just Married is a romantic drama that brings together Shine Shetty, Ankitha Amar, Shruthi Hariharan, Devaraj, Shruthi, Anup Bhandari, and Achyuth Kumar in key roles. Directed by CR Bobby, the film is a true showcase of B Ajaneesh Lokanath's signature sound. Produced by CR Bobby and B Ajaneesh Lokanath under the ABBS Studios Productions banner, this film promises a soundtrack that will keep you hooked.

The movie will feature six songs, each adding its own unique flavour to the narrative. The story, penned by CR Bobby, is brought to life through a screenplay co-written with Dhananjay, with Raghu Niduvalli serving as the dialogue writer. Cinematography is led by PG (Parthiban) and Ashik Kusugol, with Amar handling the art direction. The action sequences are choreographed by Vikram Mor, Sahas, Baba Bhaskar, and Shanthi Aravind.

Sharan credits audience for *Choo Mantar*'s commercial success

Team Choo Mantar

CE FEATURES

CHOO Mantar, the horror-comedy starring Sharan, Chikkanna, Aditi Prabhudeva, Meghana Goankar, and Prabhu Mundkur, has surprised many by making a good show at the box office since its January 10 release. The film, directed by Navneeth of Karvva fame, has been creating a good buzz through word of mouth.

Sharan, soaking in the success of *Choo Mantar*, credits its popularity to the audience. The actor expressed gratitude for the audience's support, which has turned the film into a box-office hit.

The success was celebrated at a special event where the *Choo Mantar* team honoured two Kannada cinema legends, Dwarakish and Dr Vishnuvardhan. In addition to its commercial success, the film is part of a larger cinematic universe, connecting to the popular Kannada film Apthamitra. With the announcement of *Choo Mantar* 2, a sequel already in the works, audiences can expect even more from this growing multiverse.

Sharan also shared some insights into his collaboration with Resul Pookutty, revealing how the Oscar-winning sound designer selects his films. "When the producer first mentioned bringing Resul Pookutty on board, I thought it was just a joke. I didn't take it seriously at first. But to my surprise, the producer later showed me the chat where he had actually reached out to Resul, making it happen for *Choo Mantar*," Sharan recalled.

The actor went on to explain Resul's unique approach to film selection. "I learnt that Resul Pookutty doesn't just take any project. He first considers whether a film offers enough room for his expertise and if his involvement would truly enhance it. After seeing parts of *Choo Mantar*, he was confident that he could contribute meaningfully, and now we're seeing the amazing results in the film," Sharan added.

With its blend of comedy, horror, and masterful sound design, *Choo Mantar* continues to captivate audiences and looks set to make an even bigger impact in the sequel.